

Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection

Ben Huot

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Chapter 1

Introduction

by Ben Huot

1.1 Why Give Them Away?

I am not making any profit off my books, because I am a disabled veteran and if I did, I would jeopardize my pension. Another reason is that I think too many things in life cost too much money. Where most people who want a free culture express these views by stealing music and movies, because they think they cost too much money, I have taken a proactive approach and have instead released my books for free.

The greatest things in life are free and the greatest works have no copyright. If I want my work to last, the best way to do it is to not sell my copyright and license it for free distribution. Like most good writers and revolutionary thinkers, I will likely be thought of as more important after I die. As it is, the only writers who make much off their books are people who are already famous.

1.2 Why so Negative on Science and Europe?

When we talk about Science, it would be hard for most people to agree what they were talking about. When I refer to Science, I mean the Enlightenment philosophy that arose in the last 500 years in Europe and America. When I refer to Science, it is usually capitalized, and refers to the Scientific Worldview.

This worldview as I see it is composed of Atheism, Materialism, and Systematic Thought drawn from Rousseau, Descartes, and Maimonides (most people falsely give Thomas Aquinas credit). The big idea uniting these 3 principles is arrogance and man controlling the world.

I see Science as a discovery process and as a worldview as intertwined, because if you tell most Scientists that you think Science is valid, they jump to thinking you believe in Evolution. Contemporary movements in Science such as Superstring Theories, Dark Matter and Dark Energy, Global Warming (Global Catastrophe), Genetics, and advances in Ecology theory are taking Science beyond the 3 principles in the Scientific Worldview. The problem is

that most people think in terms of 17th to 19th century Science.

I have a sister who teaches Science and I respect both what she is doing and the level of professionalism and her deep understanding of the vast knowledge base required to be a professional in Science. I think that if more people understood what Science is really about by learning from my sister and Scientists like her, we wouldn't have most of the problems in Science that we have now.

There are a number of Enlightenment philosophers I agree with or at least partially agree with. Berkeley is one of my favourite philosophers, Spinoza inspired some important aspects of my philosophy, John Locke's "Letter Concerning Toleration" was one of the most important works written and I totally agree with it except I don't think we should limit toleration to religious beliefs, and Hume had some interesting ideas that could be useful for someone very creative. I also enjoy reading about physics and astronomy and I make heavy use of the Internet and anti-psychotics which all came out of Science.

When I am referring to the atrocities that Europe has committed, I am referring to the top leadership of the government. I am referring to the dozen or so worldwide "rich white men," who control most of what goes on in the world. And I have also been very critical of rich politically conservative Christians in my writing as well.

I had thought I had been clear about this and this was obvious from what I have written, but I have recently found out that this needed to be clarified. Unfortunately this wasn't communicated to me in the right way, before I had completed 16 of the books. I only wished intellectuals who are negative on Christianity would be willing to say that it is not the Bible they are against but the way Christians act.

It is common amongst intellectuals to group all born-again Christians together. It is common for intellectuals to blame current problems in history on what the Bible says, when if they were to actually read it, they would find that the Bible speaks against much of what they feel has been done wrong in the name of Christianity.

1.3 Purpose of Books

It is common thinking amongst Evangelical Christians in postmodern times that the end of times is near, but it was near at the time of the New Testament. But I believe that the problems in the world have nothing to do with signalling the tribulation and the reason why we have survived this far is because of God's direct divine intervention.

Many people are trying to prepare for the world to end, but what if it lasted for thousand of years into the future, by God's grace of course? Who is planning for that? We have no idea what the end of times will be like or how to prepare, but we can guess as to how to prepare for humanity lasting thousands more years. And the answers lie in our past and in the Bible, but not in how we were taught.

Like people who were born over 50 years ago and thought they wouldn't live this long and are now in bad health but still alive or like the troops in Iraqi Freedom who have been kept alive and greatly disabled when in other wars they would have simply died, our civilization will likely last into the future in some form or another even if we come close to destroying ourselves, but we instead will be severely impaired environmentally, technologically, economically, politically, and socially.

My text books and picture books contain most of my work over the past 10 years. These include my reading of some 235 books containing the philosophical and religious thinking of the worlds cultures for several thousand years and the application of the main themes of some of the major Old Testament Prophets and major works of the New Testament.

The main point of this work is to get people to stop living their lives with their minds, but instead follow their hearts. I bring a radically different combination of viewpoints that you have not heard of before. I am not asking people to follow what I have written, but rather let the words stir up some sort of emotional response in your heart.

I challenge my readers to come up with their own

unique ideas and that can lead the world in a new direction. We need a much broader diversity of ideas in our culture to deal with the problems we are facing in America and throughout the rest of the world.

1.4 The Books

...If you can control a people's economy, you don't need to worry about its politics; its politics have become irrelevant. If you control people's choices as to whether or not they will work, and where they will work, and what they will do, and how well they will do it, and what they will eat and wear, and the genetic makeup of their crops and animals, and what they will do for amusement, then why should you worry about freedom of speech? In a totalitarian economy, any "political liberties" that the people might retain would simply cease to matter.

1

The *Free Thinking Christian* is a new series of books self-published by myself, a previously unknown author, Ben Huot. My series of 8 books on philosophy challenge the assumptions made by Christian Churches in America and Europe. I believe that people of other major belief systems each understand an element of the Trinity better than any Christian church of the Western world.

All 8 *Free Thinking Christian* books should be read in order. The order is as follows: *Philosophy Core*, *Philosophy Electives*, *North and South*, *Justice and Hope*, *Total Person and Society*, *Unexpected*, and *Faith and Creativity in Education*. The first 4 focus on the Humanities and the last 4 on the Social Sciences. These books are arranged more as a large poem or song with refrains or choruses where the same themes are repeated in each book.

The *Free Thinking Christian: Humanities Collection*, as well as *Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Col-*

¹Wendell Berry in "Conserving Forest Communities" in *Another Turn of the Crank*

lection are all based on Biblical theology which I see as composed of a number of paradoxes. The series is about humility and compassion and kindness and seriousness. *Philosophy Core* is an introduction to my methods, *Philosophy Electives* consists of applications of my theories, *North and South* contrasts the atheist Northern Hemisphere with the very religious Southern Hemisphere, *Beyond Philosophy* finds that the farthest disciplines from the Scientific worldview are poetry and art, *Justice and Hope* is about class justice and hope for everlasting life, while *Total Person and Society* is about reason and emotions and the spirit and the will. *Unexpected* is about the unexpected good things about America. *Faith and Creativity in Education* is about what is wrong with education in America.

1.5 Background Information

These books are composed of both poetry and essay and are a collection of different works loosely connected by the same themes much like the Bible, Kierkegaards writings, and many great works of Eastern Philosophy.

In my writings and in my thinking, I don't see a separation between my personal experiences, my mental illness, my philosophy, the type of Christianity I practice, the politics I believe in, and the condition of the world.

These collections are based on almost 10 years of my readings of 235 texts, 80 percent classics or primary texts in philosophy, religion, and literature, more Asian than European and some African. I am the only one I know of that has combined Philosophical Taoism and Christian Existentialism. All 8 texts together include original poems by myself and about 800 pages of original text. These 8 books combined are called the *Free Thinking Christian Series*.

I am a born again Christian Existentialist as well as a Neoconfucian and a Philosophical Taoist and see no contradiction in that. I also have Paranoid Schizophrenia and have served in the Army - I am now a disabled veteran.

This book is a combination of poetry and articles

concerning my philosophy. The style is inspired from the Bible and Kierkegaard. My content is inspired by Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Acts, Romans, and 1 Corinthians as well as Chuang Tzu, Chu Hsi, Kierkegaard, and Camus.

It is primarily theologically focused on the Trinity. I believe that there is a tremendous misunderstanding of the Holy Spirit, God the Father, and Jesus Christ in the western Christian tradition.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is better understood by Hindus (bhakti path), Zen Buddhists, and Philosophical Taoists than any Christian church in America or Europe. I believe that Muslims understand God the Father better than any Christian church in America or Europe. I believe that African Christians understand Jesus Christ better than any Christian church in America or Europe.

Chapter 2

Justice and Hope

by Ben Huot

2.1 First Things

2.1.1 Logo



I should explain what the logo is meant to be representing. The guy is a pen, which is me, which comes from my first poem in Philosophy Core, called Creative Process, where I refer to myself as doing Tai Chi, with my pen being my body. The idea is based on "the pen is mightier than the sword" so I created "the Bible is mightier than the pen".

The Bible is shooting out flames because in Ephesians it talks about spiritual warfare and the Bible is the only armament that is offensive. (It means offensive instead of defensive. These are common terms used in combat. The sword is the only spiritual weapon. All the other armaments expressed in Ephesians are protective and defensive in nature like a shield, a helmet, a breastplate, etc.) The flames are meant as in James when it talks about being purified by fire or struggles with temptation in our lives. Isaiah also was purified by a live coal to his lips by a Seraphim. So the usage of fire is not evil or anything violent. Think of it as purifying.

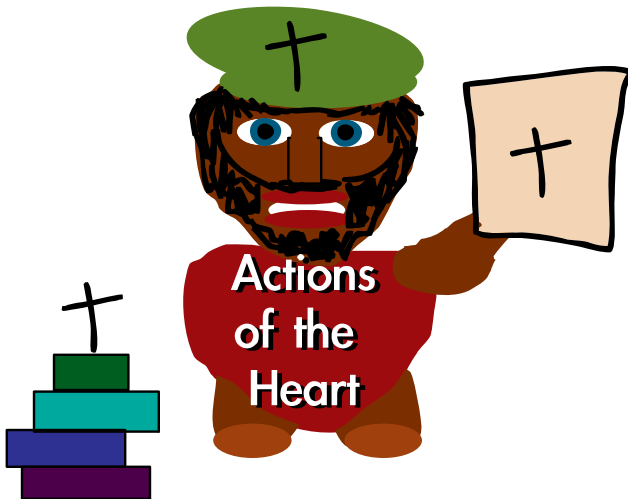
I would ideally like it to show the sword turned in-

ward to his chest, symbolizing like in many fantasy books that when they defeat the great evil force in the world, they are left with the greatest task, which is to defeat the evil within. The Bible is said to be a 2 sided sword, with the ability to cut between bone and marrow, and show the truth. Christ's tongue is said to be a 2 edged sword in Revelations, to defeat the Devil with. The reason I didn't show this is it looks like he is committing suicide.

The spiritual warfare is not against people, ideas, or even spirits. It is about fighting for the purity of our own minds. It is an internal thing. Like the Native American proverb "my greatest enemy is myself." This purity is in regard to our own sins and does not refer to purity in any other sense. But this is a process, not an outcome, as it is not possible for us to live without sin.

This warfare is only spiritual in the sense that it is not militant, social, economic, or political. This is for my own moral and ethical development and consists of practical qualities I try, with Christ's help, to cultivate like humility, compassion, kindness, and seriousness and do not correspond to anything supernatural.

2.1.2 Other Books



My text books and picture books contain most of my work over the past 10 years. These include my reading of some 235 books containing the philosophical and religious thinking of the worlds cultures for several thousand years and the application of the main themes of some of the major Old Testament Prophets and major works of the New Testament.

The main point of this work is to get people to stop-ping living their lives with their minds, but instead follow their hearts. I bring a radically different combination of viewpoints that you have not heard of before. I am not asking people to follow what I have written, but rather let the words stir up some sort of emotional response in your heart.

I challenge my readers to come up with their own unique ideas and that can lead the world in a new direction. We need a much broader diversity of ideas in our culture to deal with the problems we are facing in America and throughout the rest of the world.

2.1.3 For More Information

For more books and information, visit me on the web at <http://benjamin-newton.com/>

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at <mailto:ben@benjamin-newton.com> I even enjoy constructive criticism

2.1.4 Cover Graphic



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2.1.6 Introduction

In my previous book series, *The Free Thinking Christian*, I explored how humility towards God and compassion for our fellow sentient beings as well as kindness to others who have sinned and seriousness about our own sin are all aspects of faith in Christ. Because we have repented of our sins, this does not make us better than others and being humble towards God means being equal to believers and unbelievers alike. We should be serious about the concept of sin, focusing on our own mistakes, while at the same time reaching out in kindness towards others who have sinned as well.

In this book, I take another set of dualities that are both true about faith in Christ which are hope and justice. In our own circumstances and with our own gifts, we should work towards justice for those in need in the here and now, but at the same time look towards Heaven as God's final response to suffering with hope. Working for justice is like avoiding sin; just because we can't always succeed does not mean that we should not try. We need to see faith in Christ not in human reasoning or through human feeling, but through a choice of our will and rely on the promises of Scripture through faith.

From secular works, my main influences were from Freud, Engels, Weber, Jainism, Sufi music, Rastafari, and Liberation Theology. From the Bible, my main influences were from Psalms, Isaiah, Luke, Philippians, I John, and Revelations.

2.2 Methods and Intensity

2.2.1 Faith and Suffering

Philippians

For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

1

I share with Paul his methods and intensity to further the base knowledge of seekers and their desire to think critically. I see a level of devotion in the practice of Jainism that inspires me and reminds me of the tenacity of the Apostle Paul.

When living in hard conditions whether by choice or by circumstance, we can use the energy we get from the frustrations to propel ourselves farther into our ministry. It is hard giving up all the pleasures we see others engage in, but the satisfaction and fulfillment of working to further God's will and people's liberation is greater than any luxury sin could provide.

We see in Paul's letter that what we struggle with on the surface is the establishment, but the roots run much deeper. The source of this persecution is a spiritual one and in combating injustice, we must seek to engage the struggle on a spiritual level. We are not strong enough to battle the institutions of oppression economically or politically. But if we open our hearts to God's will we can be vessels of liberating change.

Our weapons are praying for God's divine intervention and His Word in both bible-based prophecy and directly in the Scriptures themselves. Like the Rastafari

¹Phillipians 1:8-11

movement has understood we need to speak out against oppression in writing, speech, and song. We must live by Christ's example in a way that is set apart from the world whether in commune or in local networks.

1

I struggle daily
With crippling fear
Dark moods
Of doubt and negativity
My paranoia
Is all that seems real
For days at a time
What brings me through
Is the fellowship of my family
And God's grace
When I am filled with fear
I turn to Paul's letters
To cheer myself up
When the fear is spiritual
I turn to Ephesians
There are many things
We have no control of
Our job situation
Our family
And our health
The one thing we have control
Is our attitude
It is not always possible
To have complete control
Over your feelings
When you are mentally ill
But God always cares
Even if He doesn't stop everything
Our greatest comfort
Is that if we are born again
We can know for sure
That when we die
We will be with Christ
And while we are still here

We have God's word
And we have each other
And we have a gift
To help others with

2

It is easy to get distracted
From our purpose in life
But that is why we have
The Bible and other believers
To remind us
That we have a higher calling
Than our jobs and our health
We have a purpose
And a living God
That will bring us through
Some of the hardest things
Like mental and physical prison
Life long illnesses
And situations we cannot escape
We must look to Christ's example
To know how to handle
The tragedies of life
We can turn our focus
From the pain in life
And rejoice for what we have
To keep a thankful spirit
About us while enduring
The frustrations and turmoil
Of postmodern life

2.2.2 Concept of Sin

Romans

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven
against all ungodliness and wickedness of men
who by their wickedness suppress the truth,
for what may be known about God is plain
to them, because God has shown it to them.

For since the creation of the world his invisible nature, even his eternal power and deity, has been clearly seen, being understood by the things that have been made. So they are without excuse; for although they knew God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools

2

When They Rejected God

As Europe refused to acknowledge
The moral authority of their God
They looked to the Greeks
For their ethical beliefs
They began to do
What we know is
Unnatural and demented
They believed that Man
Was more important
Than his fellow living creatures
While he made his own people
Live in filth and poverty
They worshipped the machines
They made and placed them
Higher than their fellow man
Men became enslaved to the
Pieces of dead trees and minerals
They found a new continent
Which they destroyed the native culture
Of a peaceful people
They got them addicted to their drugs
Which made them out of control
They sold them weapons
To kill living creatures more quickly
They killed off the native peoples
With biological weapons of mass destruction

²Romans 1:18-22

They stole their land
And broke peace treaties they made
When the native people's land
Was found to have minerals
Which would make them more wealthy
They found people of a different color
Which they treated even worse
They treated them like they
Did the animals
They were owned and sold
They were used as property
They hacked down the vegetation
Centuries old trees were killed
So they could conquer more land
And settle it with outlaws
To make room for the machines
They killed defenseless little animals
And wore their skin
With the heads and feet still attached
They poisoned the water
Out of waste from their machines
All so a few of them
Could live in such wealth
That had never been acquired as much
By any other people in history

Evil Traits

When they stopped worshipping God
The Europeans began to
Make larger wars
Force captured people to fight their wars
Invent ways to kill more efficiently
Invent ways to make the poor even poorer
Take away land and jobs from the poor
Tax poor people into slavery
Send taxes to the wealthy few
Make people work without pay
Find chemicals to force others into slavery
Divide country against country
Steal entire races wealth

Invent more toxic chemicals
Poison the waters
Bring new diseases to destroy populations
Permanently deplete natural resources of others
Destroy the artistic resources of entire countries
Educate people to give up their religions
Use religion to persecute others
Force others to convert to their religions
Worship their machines
Destroy entire civilizations

2.2.3 Generational Sin

Introduction

Thou shalt have no other gods before me...Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

3

When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few; and let another take his office. Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow. Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places. Let the extortioner catch all that he hath; and let the strangers spoil his labour. Let there be none to extend mercy unto him: neither let there be any to favour his fatherless children. Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name

³Exodus 20:3,5-7

be blotted out. Let the iniquity of his fathers
be remembered with the Lord; and let not the
sin of his mother be blotted out. Let them be
before the Lord continually, that he may cut off
the memory of them from the earth. Because
that he remembered not to shew mercy, but
persecuted the poor and needy man, that he
might even slay the broken in heart.

4

My culture and its ancestors were responsible for the
exponentially increased suffering of the past 500 years.
We have the audacity to blame the Scriptures for the things
we knew we did wrong and knew the Bible spoke against.
The real blame was our unbelief and our valuation of
things more than sentient beings and all other life.

Forgive Us

Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For our idolatry
Of our precious Science
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For giving up
On our beliefs
Because we found something
Newer and shinier
To play with
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For the destruction
Of Your creation
So that we might
Make ourselves fancier toys
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For treating our own species
Less because of the color

⁴Psalms 109:7-16

Of their skin
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For our devotion to money
And the compromises
We made for
The accumulation of wealth
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For valuing efficiency
Over justice and equality
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For sacrificing
Our children's future
For a fancier retirement
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For exterminating
Entire species
For our fashions
And our entertainment
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For compromising
What was right
For what was convenient
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For starting wars
To destroy peaceful neighbors
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For destroying
Whole cultures and peoples
When we found
Gold on their land
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For advancing technology
Only if it could be used

As a weapon
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For basing our entire
Way of life
On cultivating greed
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For making friends
With the powerful
As the expense
Of the weak
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For using
The resources of others
For our personal enjoyment
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For destroying the homes
Of other species
So we could be richer
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For giving up on justice
When we found a scapegoat
Our Father in Heaven
Forgive us our sins
For blaming our problems
On Your Scriptures

2.2.4 Value of Hope

Revelations

I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot bear evil men, but you have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and have found them to be false; I know you have persevered and have endured for my name's sake, and you

have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember then from where you have fallen, repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

5

Christians look to Heaven as their future home and the Earth as just a waiting station. We are comforted by the fact that we will no longer suffer or have to live in violence once Christ returns and defeats the devil once and for all.

Metaphor of Christ's Return

Millions of hooves
Beat the ground
In unison
The riders are angelic
With white fabric
Draped across their bodies
The Lord Jesus Christ
Leads the soldiers to battle
He is afraid of no one
His gaze sees through your soul
He has defeated the dinosaur
With a two-sided sword
All the red flesh is fallen
Into the rivers of blood below
The dragon's wings are clipped
Like a pet parakeet
The evil monsters
The crypto dinosaur fish

⁵Revelation 2:2-7

And the King Kong
Who have special powers
Beyond the laws of physics
Were thrown into
The molten lava lake
That flows for all eternity
The unfaithful corporations
Whose stocks are worthless
Their offices vacant
And their business looted
Are bankrupt for eternity
With their board of directors
Along with the investors
Locked in prison
For crimes against humanity
There are no technology privileges
Or any legal defense
For all eternity
Jesus Christ is our CEO
Our commander-in-chief
And our pastor

Sketch of Heaven

A singularity formed
There was a big bang
And the universe
Was created again
There is a celestial city
Where suffering is no more
The fountain of youth
Is open to everyone
The city is on a hill
It glows like a polished mirror
Fit for a giant telescope
And having the value
Of countless Hope diamonds
The wall is as high
As the tallest skyscraper
Angels like US Marines
Faithfully guard

Each of the dozen gates
The city plan
Is square in shape
The wall is of vivid green jade
And the city is
24 karat gold
The foundation is made
Of the Crown jewels
The gates are
Mother of Pearl
The street is clear
As drinking water
The lights are always on
And the energy source
Is God Himself
The roadways will
Always be open
Only good, ethical people
Will be there
A river of water
As pure as from a glacier
Flowed down the main street
There was a fruit
For every month
The leaves of the trees
Brought peace between
The races of people

2.2.5 Rastafari Influenced

Black Jesus

From Ur of the Chaldeans
Came Abraham
The Chaldeans were descended from Ham
And Jesus was of the line of Abraham
Therefore Jesus is black
Jesus loves those in need
He loves those without food
He wants to save those who suffer
He raises prophets amongst the oppressed

Therefore Jesus is African
Jesus loves people not corporations
He loves those who don't love Him
Jesus breaks laws of physics
To bring relief that glorifies God
Therefore Jesus is the Other
Jesus was born a member
Of a persecuted race
He started a new movement
To bring equality and justice
Therefore Jesus is color blind

Many Names

What is Mystery Babylon?
What one country does this much evil?
Is God picking on Iraq or America?
Babylon is an idea
Babylon is a an unfaithful believer
Babylon is materially rich
Babylon is obsessed with sex
Babylon controls the world
Babylon has many names
Babylon is consumerism
Babylon is imperialism
Babylon is capitalism
Babylon is Hollywood
Babylon is a corporation
Babylon is Wall Street

Power of Babylon

Babylon is the power that is
Babylon is about rebellion
Babylon feeds off conflict and violence
Babylon worships sex, power and money
Babylon is the enemy of the Church
Babylon targets the poor
And aims at the different
She loves the follower
She loves those with no mind of their own

She loves those afraid to make decisions
She hates individuals
She hates new ideas
She hates those who think differently
She hates those who refuse to conform
When you raise your hand against her in anger
She wins
When you protest her politically
She gains power
When you fight her economically
She grows stronger
Her weak point
Can be attacked only through prayer

White Church

The rich white men
Don't like anyone different
Than themselves
They don't like people who look different
Or act different
They have all the power
They are drawn to churches
They believe that God
Supports whatever they believe
They believe that God advocates
The status quo
They pick verses from the Bible
In a way that supports intolerance and ignorance
Which goes against all the main ideas
In all the books of the Bible
They are not afraid of just making things up
That are factually incorrect
Or taking things out of context
These people are often the leaders
Of churches worldwide
They are a very poor witness
And they exhibit no evidence
Of a genuine faith
They just keep driving around their SUVs

That are capable of towing another SUV
With pro-Bush bumper stickers
These are the same people
Who are anti-Arab and anti-Muslim
And are so pissed off about them
That the facts of the case
Don't factor into their plans of revenge
These are people who vote
For corporations robbing the poor
Without even being paid off
People who won't admit
The help they received
In getting their wealth
Both legal and otherwise
Who blame the poor
For problems the rich created

Hate and the Bible

White people have used the Bible
As a way to push their beliefs of hate
But what does the Bible really say?
Jesus was a Jew
Ham was not cursed
In the Church
There are to be no distinctions
Between races, sexes, social groups
Or any other artificial division
Why is the church organized along
Racial, gender, and social lines
If the Bible is so clear on the subject?
Because those in leadership
Don't really care what the Bible says
Justifying beliefs of hate on the Bible
Is only possible when you lie
About what the Bible says

Prayer and Reasoning

If we cannot fight politically or economically
Then how do we resist?

The war is a spiritual one
So we fight with reasoning
And with prayer
We sing, we write, we discuss
We speak words
Revealed to us by God
We pray prayers
Asking for revelation and discernment
We separate ourselves
From those who belong to Babylon
Violence is not the solution
Because Babylon feeds off conflicts
The root problem
Is spiritual rebellion
The way to kill the weed
Is to get at its roots
The problem with the church
Is that the supernatural
Is ignored and not dealt with
The Bible does deal with the supernatural
But the mainstream church
Doesn't want to believe it
The church is losing to earth religions
Because people know the spiritual is real

Red, Green, and Gold

My heart is red, green, and gold
I cannot live
With a white heart
My heart goes out
To all the third world
I believe that those
Different from myself
Understand God better
Than other European Americans
It is hard to take pride
In being Scottish or French
When the world has been
Destroyed by Western Europeans
Do not judge me

By the color of my skin
I am not a rich white man
I do not feel close
To people who look like me
I read as little as possible
Written by the rich white man
I reject his culture
And his belief system
I identify more with Asian culture
Than I do my European lineage

2.2.6 Jain Influenced

Generations

Like Abraham's call by God
So I believed I was called away
To another land
With my enlistment in the Army
Like Jacob's wrestle with God
I started to fight with God
About why He allows suffering
During college
Like Moses liberating his people
From the land of the Pharaohs
So I was liberating from paranoia
After my stay in a psychiatric ward
Like Joshua leading his people
Into the land of Canaan
So I fought to stay as independent
And rational as possible
Like Israel under Solomon
God blessed my work and I flourished
In my writing and artwork
Then I lived like a prophet
In the wilderness of the retirement home
Fighting for justice
And feeling I lived in the shadow
Of many old people's wrath
Now my desire for justice and freedom
Has been fulfilled with my return

To my own apartment
Like the Israelites came back to the land
After their years of captivity
Under the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians,
etc.
In my life I have lived many generations
Like being reincarnated
My situation changed each time
And my life was different at each stage

Naked Mind

Like a devout monk
My mind operates
In transparency and nakedness
As there are no obstructions
Between me and my feelings
For others they see life
Through filters
To keep their minds
From every emotion
That flies by
For me I am naked
And there is not
Even a thin white robe
Between me
And the thoughts
That race by
I feel deeply about injustice
And people hurting others
For any reason
I struggle to be balanced
And to keep my mind clear
Of the paranoid conclusions
My mind makes from
Reflection on the situation
I have to guard my mind consciously
As the normal controls and safeguards
Are not present

Leaving and Letting Go

It is as hard
For me to let go
Of things others said
That have hurt me
As it is to miss a chance
To spend time with my family
Like karma
Wrongs done against me
Take a long time to be forgiven
Letting go of frustrations
And large projects
I want to finish
I am so deeply invested in
I am like a king
Who cannot bear
Giving his fortune away to monks
Even if it brings better karma
And a better life later on
Growing as a person
Through the generations of reincarnations
Is what we do in life
Our lives take many different
Turns and paths
Along the way we learn or
Continue to get attacked by wild animals
Until we gain control of our emotions
Feelings are the hardest thing to give up
Because we hold them close to ourselves
And build our identity upon them

2.2.7 Musical Journey

Value of Music

A movement without form
Far purer than poetry
A unified understanding
Of science and religion
We strive to go deeper
To remember before

We first heard any sound
This movement unites
Our heart and our spirits
It brings beauty unspoiled
By logic and reason
It is a method of learning
The highest form of religion
It is the same
In the east and the west
It is the essence of creation
It is our final hope
We reach out to it
As mere children
And respond to it
In meaning and in action
It is the language
Of our mind
It is the inspiration
That drives us to think
It is the vision
Of our imagination
It is the foundation
Of freedom and expression

Inspiration

When I close my eyes
There are countless patterns
When I fall asleep
Symbols come alive
There is a calmness
That our minds sometimes
Find by accident
A certain balance of chemistry
In the human brain
That drives us to action
There is a feeling
That we cannot ignore
There is a sound
That keeps company
With silence and emptiness

There is a magical experience
When our memories flow
In waves of water and wind
From thought to belief
From hearing and from smelling
Our laughter awakens
In each moment
We stop working
The joy of silence
Overwhelms the spirit
With each step
Through the garden
We create a path
And in each stride
We come together
We cannot count
Past our age
In the middle of the room
There is always space
To dance and sing

Vigor and Completion

I cannot remember
The note before
I write it down
I cannot stop
My mind from smiling
When I think
Of new words
The time for finishing
Has come and gone
Where is meaning
Without necessity?
What is a solution
Without a beginning?
When will we learn
The beat of the guitar
And the notes of a drum?
Why do we write music down?
Why do we stop listening

When the music is finished?
Why do we start songs
We can't finish?
When there is a reason
There is still hope
When there is a new chorus
It is time to sing
I reach out to the sky
But I can only
Run so far

2.2.8 Nature Appreciation Poetry

Help Farm Animals

Human laborers are not the only
Foundation of civilization
Farm animals were used
In the creation of modern civilization
For food and other products
They could be made into
As well as their labor on farms
Although most farmers
Now use machines
We would not have gotten to this point
Without the labor of farm animals
We still crave the products
That come from the farm animal
We crave the meat, milk, eggs
To enrich our diets
And we make leather and glue
Out of horses and cows
We also do cruel things
To farm animals
In the way we feed
And how we house them
We are also cruel
In using the smaller ones
Like rabbits and mice
As guinea pigs
For products too toxic

For humans anyway
With all the farm animals
Contribute to our culture
And for all they have suffered unfairly
Find a way to help improve the life
Of a farm animal today

The Land is a Gift

The land has given us
So much wealth
The earth gives us vegetation
For shelter, medicine, and food
The earth gives us minerals
For shelter, medicine, and art
The land gives us water
For energy, health, and hygiene
The earth gives us fuel
For transportation, warmth, and machinery
The land gives us space
For shelter, community gatherings, and monuments
The land has given us so much
And asks nothing of us
But to be good stewards
Of its forests and landscapes
Deserts and tundra
Mountains and hills
Valleys and lowlands
Oceans and rivers
Sky and clouds
To keep the earth alive
With vegetation and living creatures
Not only have we not appreciated
The resource we get
From the earth
We have poisoned and torn apart
The land and its creatures
We need to stop creating trash
And waste that isn't organic
We need to live within

The energy we have available
We need to keep at least some of the land
Free from any development
And where we do develop
We need to not disturb
Its living creations

Loving Pets

Our animal friends love us
No matter what we look like
No matter how smart we are
No matter how much money we have
The only thing
An animal cares about
Is how much you love them
How you take care of their needs
How you create joy in their lives
The time you spend with them
The quality of food
You provide for them
How clean you keep
Their living space
How gently you touch them
And pick them up
For the amount of effort
You put into caring for them
They create in enjoyment
10 times as much
When we think of helping
In poverty and injustice
We should think first
Of our animal friends
Who live without homes
And in unclean situations
Who are neglected and abused
Or who are in jail though innocent

2.2.9 Near Death Experiences

21 Bombs

When I was in Middle School, I was threatened by other kids. They said they knew where I lived and would come after me. I was proactive. I made variants of Molotov cocktails out of gasoline, rubbing alcohol, turpentine, fire starters, batteries, or whatever else I could find around the house. I even made a crude protective mask out of baking soda and a rag and a protective vest out of tin cans, bricks, and steel wool. I spilled some gasoline on the floor and it stained when my parents were gone. They came back and smelled gasoline, so they checked my room and found my bombs. I had them stored in my room for over a year and the summer that year was especially hot. Much of the gasoline had evaporated. Good thing I never smoked.

Smoking Bed

When I was a freshman in high school, I had a book report due the next day, which I hadn't even read the book for yet. My parents wouldn't let me stay up late that night so that I could read the book, so I put an incandescent desk lamp under about five layers of thick blankets, but I fell asleep before I turned off the lamp. Luckily I woke up when I did, because my bed was smoldering. I unplugged the lamp and told my parents. My dad could hardly breathe in the room - there was so much smoke. I had to spend that spring break pulling out the char from the mattress, re-stuffing it, and sewing it back up.

Hypothermia

I was in Scouting for 11 years from Tiger Cubs all the way to Eagle Scout and when I was a sophomore in high school, I was in the Adventure Patrol. We did more extreme camping than the younger kids. One of the things that they decided to do was go snow camping. Unfortunately, I could not afford the right gear to keep me warm. The problems started when I got my skis and poles. They

didn't give me long enough skis to hold up my weight and they gave me pulls that were too long. I had never skied before and we were walking through several feet of snow. I fell down and got soaked. I didn't have any shoes besides the ski boots. I started shivering when I made my snow cave and by the time I finished I was thinking irrationally. Luckily the leader checked on me. He said my home made stove would put just enough heat out to melt the snow around it and put the fire out. I went to a ski cabin and warmed up and then slept in one of the leaders' van that night.

Sparking Outlet

This happened just the other day (at 25). I have a worker that comes to walk with me and clean my house 3 times a week. He was pulling out the bed to make it and bumped the answering machine cord where it plugged into the outlet. Sparks flew as high as his hips. He tried to unplug it but sparks flew out again. I called the management and then turned off the power with the circuit breakers. The electrician came a half an hour later. He showed me a dime that was melted. Apparently, he said that the dime had some how fallen down onto the prongs and got wedged in there. This was a freak accident that would be hard to reproduce even if we did it on purpose. He said if I hadn't turned off the power when I did, I could have had a fire. He replaced the outlet. I no longer use a phone that requires being plugged in.

2.2.10 Philosophy of Fun

Less money but more fun

He who dreams of drinking wine may weep when morning comes; he who dreams of weeping may in the morning go off to hunt. While he is dreaming he does not know it is a dream, and in his dream he may even try to interpret a dream. Only after he wakes does he know it was a dream. And someday there will be a

great awakening when we know that this is all
a great dream.

6

Businesses often make money not by satisfying genuine needs but by appealing to a person's emotional insecurities. They create a market for their goods when there isn't an established market for their good or service. Advertising is the usual medium that is used to create this emotional need. Advertisers convince people that people need to buy their product to be happy, by convincing people that only things that cost money are fun. These are false distinctions that separate luxury from subsistence expenditures and that create inequality and suffering.

This kind of advertising is often common with a corporation because of the abstraction of the stockholders (owners) of the company from the management decisions that the company makes and the lack of the personal responsibility that this arrangement fosters. Most businesses are not corporations, have first hand insights into social justice issues, and often bear more personal responsibility than individuals, but most of the businesses that people are familiar with are the multi-national corporations that dodge personal responsibility and pursue profits blind of the consequences.

Save on public transportation

Not only is money saved when people use city buses, greyhound buses, and trains instead of cars, taxis, and airplanes; but it also saves time because the routes are organized better and they stop closer to the places where a person can find entertainment with less time spent questioning others and learning by trial and error. Cars cost a tremendous amount of money and some families have found that they save thousands of dollars a year even when they rent a car for vacation as compared to owning one.

⁶Chuang Tzu in "Discussion on Making all Things Equal" from *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings*, translated by Burton Watson

Find joy in producing, rather than consuming

Entertainment that costs the most money is where there is the most service rendered and the most personalized attention. Entertainment requires both of these. When you are the one performing rather than being the spectator, you feel greater involvement and personalization and it can cost quite a bit less than consumption-focused entertainment.

Do things for others rather than yourself

A person will always be disappointed when they try to satisfy their own ever increasing desires for pleasure. There really is often more joy in helping others than in consuming for ourselves. It is free to volunteer and it is usually more fun than doing things for yourself because the attitude is more positive in volunteering.

Be spontaneous and absurd

Humor is just an incredible insight that hits at just the right moment in an understandable way. Absurdity is that which is human and defines our unique existence. It is the human that challenges our conception of what is human most that is the most human. When someone just goes and does something without being self-conscious they often have more fun than if they spent time planning it. There is no one to impress unless you are into politics or in high school. Business makes money by having a person engaging in activities that they can control and manipulate. Spontaneousness and absurdity are things that businesses cannot make sense of and those inclinations lead to less consumerism.

Motion = Stillness

When the body is still, then the mind races. When the body is moving, then the mind is still. People spend much of their lives sitting and talking or resting and planning to help alleviate stress and conflict, when just forgetting the whole thing would be much better. Non competitive

sports are great for this but the same motion can be derived from spending time with animals or even reflecting on the wind, rain, and racing shadows. Getting where there is fresh air is important for this (for the ears and a sense of space, not for the lungs), so when there is reading of books, spending of time planning, or spending of any money the action becomes too purposeful and the uselessness is lost.

No Expectations

This is one of the reasons why humans experience so much more pain than animals: they have an expectation of what events should be like. This leads to drug use and a compulsive consumption of luxury items. Don't expect events to unfold like you have been told they should, and don't look for some set course of events or outcome that will make it a good story.

Holding onto the Moment

There can be an eternity in a moment. Camus said that a person only needed to live one day to survive a lifetime in prison. Society is very wasteful not just materially but with memories, time, and thought. When a person is at work, the time seems to last forever, but when they are having fun, it seems to go by so fast. Time cannot be changed but perspective can. It all works out the same for us, because we live our lives in our minds.

Understand the Ecology

There is no one set way of having more fun with less money. The key is understanding your entire ecology and the system that you live in. By working within it, and not against it, you will learn to escape from the way the world works more with your mind and so you will need to expend less effort with your body.

2.2.11 Beyond Norm University

for Plush Heart subculture

Educated toys are more fun to play with.

Blessed be the eternal God; for the fishes of the sea honour him more than men without faith, and animals without reason listen to his word with greater attention than sinful heretics.

7

Purpose

- a community for the open exchange of Plush friendly ideologies
- a central clearinghouse of information for Plush health
- a Plush cooperative distance recreation center
- a Plush way to create belonging and build relationships
- for those Plush animals with intellects far beyond those of humans
- founded in honor of Norm (a Plush cow)

Admissions

- There will be an equal ratio of Plush farm animals, sea creatures, and birds
- Plush animals must be surfaced washed regularly
- Plush souls must be in their original bodies
- Plush animals must be able to communicate through their human guardian
- Plush animal must be computer literate
- Plush animal must get enough rest time and play time each day

⁷Brother Ugolino in "The Little Flowers of Saint Francis"

Programs of Study**Still Theory Core**

- Taoist Perspective on Equality
- Gothic Perspective on Beauty
- Skeptical Perspective on Humanity
- Existential Perspective on Individuality
- Confucian Perspective on Respect
- Ecofeminist Perspective on Suffering

Electives

- Plush Anatomy and Physiology
- Plush Adaptations of Popular Sports
- Common Plush Emotional Issues
- Distribution of Plush Food Products
- Plush Musical Techniques

Faculty

- Professor Beary, School of Plush Agriculture, Music, Sports
- Professor Bow, School of Plush Medicine, Music, Sports
- Professor Patrick, School of Counseling

2.3 Faith and Class**2.3.1 Introduction**

Another duality we are taught in the Bible is that in the Old Testament we are told we will be wealthy when we are following God's commands, while the New Testament talks about how the rich are corrupt. One of the major

concepts of the Gospels was that Jesus lived in poverty and that was His example for us. Paul felt more joy when in prison and persecuted than when he was well off. In Ecclesiastes, we learn that Solomon when the wealthiest man in the world of his time was in deep despair and realized that wealth does not bring happiness. Putting all this together, we have to realize that wealth in the Old Testament meant something different from what we mean today. Wealth was symbolic of being well provided for materially, in that we received the food, clothing, and shelter we need to live in addition to the spiritual wealth including joy and peace coming from a life focused on serving God and those in need. The Scripture that seems to pull all this together is in the words of Jesus in Luke where he talks about how the lilies of the field were arrayed in greater splendor than Solomon.

2.3.2 Money

Amos

Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat? The Lord hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works. Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly as a flood; and it shall be cast out and drowned, as by the flood of Egypt.

Matthew

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God

9

1 Corinthians

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

10

1 Timothy

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But

⁹Matthew 19:21-24¹⁰1 Corinthians 13:3

thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

11

James

For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

12

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire

13

Revelations

Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that

¹¹1 Timothy 6:6-11

¹²James 2:2-6

¹³James 5:1-3

mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men

14

2.3.3 Providence

Genesis

And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones.

15

Psalms

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep

16

¹⁴Revelations 18:10-13

¹⁵Genesis 50:19-21

¹⁶Psalms 127:1-2

Luke

Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets. But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep. Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

17

Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief ap-

¹⁷Luke 6:20-26

proacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where
your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

18

2 Corinthians

As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet
making many rich; as having nothing, and yet
possessing all things.

19

Galatians

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for
whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also
reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of
the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to
the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlast-
ing. And let us not be weary in well doing: for
in due season we shall reap, if we faint not

20

2.3.4 The Protestant Ethic

Have you ever wondered why so many Republicans are
Evangelicals and why so many Evangelicals are Republi-
cans? Because many are both interested in making money.
But many are moral because they never spend it - that
would be pagan. You too can get rich if you join our church.
Our theologians have found the secret to creating wealth -
having lots of money to start with.

Hard Work

My neighbor says
He wants a website

¹⁸Luke 12:27-34

¹⁹2 Corinthians 6:10

²⁰Galatians 6:7-9

You do websites?
What is it for?
To sell things
I am not your man
I know how to write
How to design
How to think
How to create
How the technology works
I have 9 years of experience
And am hard working
I can do it for free
By I don't know how
To convince people
To buy something
It is a common misconception
That people are poor
Because they are lazy
In America we equate
Hard work with money
But there are millions
Who would beg to differ
Proverbs says we should
Work hard
But God never promises
To make us rich
Even if we follow
All His commandments
If godliness equated money
Or money was to be valued
Then Jesus would have been rich
Paul was poor and in prison
And he was happier then
Than any time of his life
Solomon was rich but depressed
When he had the wealth
Of the entire world
He wrote the most
Nihilistic book of the Bible

American Philosophy

You thought philosophy
Was the love of knowledge
But why does it matter
If it can't make you rich?
If working 40 hours a week
Gives you enough money
To live on
Then working 80 hours a week
Will give you money to invest
If you invest all that money
You will be rich
And then you can start
Your own business
So you can be a proprietor
Then you can sell
Your business
To make more money
Don't worry about
Studying the classics
It only matters
If you have money
The more money you have
The more you can make
The more time you spend
The more money you make
This is all you need to know
The rest is luck and marketing
What else is there to life?

Faith and Work

You are a technical writer
Your job is to write
About new technology
Your audience is affluent
You publish for your advertisers
You publish facts
But they seem to always
Be in favor of whoever

Pays you the most money
When you are discovered
You lash out angrily
With weakly worded insults
You get angry comments
You lose more readers
Do you think
You did something wrong?
Was that you at church
On Sunday
In the front row?
Was it you who ranted on
About those liberal rascals
In the church parking lot?
Do you think you were
Acting Christian?
What has that
Got to do with it?

Bad Monk

He wears a coarse robe
Of brown burlap
His head is shaved
And he is silent
He works in the fields
In the heat of the day
He picks oranges
Atop high ladders
And makes marmalade
The following morning
To give to the
Orphans and widows
To bring a smile
To their little faces
He kneels down
For the midnight prayers
This is how he spends
Most of his days
What a waste
He could be pulling

A 6 figure salary
As a professional gambler
If he would just
Jump the border
And steal someone's identity
No questions would be asked
He would only be taking
A job Americans
Are unwilling to do

Religion of Isolation

God loves me
And my family
He doesn't like you
He chose to save me
No matter what I do
I am one of the few
Who get to go
To Heaven
God didn't choose you
So you got to Hell
I cannot explain
Why God makes
Those decisions
But we have no right
To contest it
I don't have to care
That all my friends
And coworkers
Are unbelievers
I believe they
Have been specifically
Chosen to suffer
For all eternity
It is all set in stone
And it doesn't matter
How you or I act
You are one of those
Who haven't been chosen
I will not associate with you

Because I am better
We have exclusive clubs
And we make more money
Our kids will be
Your kids bosses
God has blessed us
For His reasons
We have enough members
We are not interested
In your salvation
We will try to punish you
By creating laws
That are based on our
Odd view of life
We think everyone
Should follow our beliefs
No matter if they believe
Or not

Worldly

The whole world
Is Going to Hell
Except the members
Of my church
If you don't believe
Just like us
In our warped
View of Scripture
There is no hope
For you
Those who are
Not among us
Die their hair
Bright colors
They paint their fingernails
All solid black
They have piercing
And they have tattoos
They read Harry Potter
And listen to

Liberal radio broadcasts
And non Christian music
They have parties
And watch movies
They watch TV
And use the Internet
They drink alcohol
Outside of communion
No one like that
Would dare come to
Our church

Who Can Help Themselves

God will only help you
If you can help yourself
You are only saved
If you are rich
God always blesses you
In a purely financial way
Christian charity
Means having a job
That pays lot of money
If you can do this
By your own skills
Then God will help you
God looks down on
Those who are lazy
Who we can determine
By those who make
Only a little money
Money follows grace
The point of following
All of God's commands
Is to get rich
If you weren't gaining anything
Then why would you
Go to all the effort
Of going to church
And raising money
To send your kids

To camp in the summer?

2.3.5 Capitalist Hedonism

Feast

A third of the world
Eats a bowl of rice a day
A third of the world
Is starving to death
All so we can
Live in luxury
We have enough food
To feed a city
In each of our
Grocery stores
On every street corner
We buy a meal
For \$10
Without thinking twice
If we gave
To a food charity
A person could live
A week and a half
On the same money
Our disabled cows
Cost more to feed
Than third world children
Our cats eat more meat
Than the average person
In South America
Our government
Pays farmers
To not grow crops
And millions
Are starving

Overfed

People in the third world
Are dying

For lack of food
Americans are dying
From eating too much
Our top cause of death
Is heart disease
Which comes from
Eating too much
Fat, sugar, and salt
1-5 year old kids
Drink sugar water
As often as fruit juice
6-11 year old kids
Eat cookies
More often than fruit
12-17 year old kids
Eat potato chips
As often as salad
22% of those 18-24
Eat almost completely
Foods high in
Fat, sugar, and salt
Almost 50%
Of Americans' food money
Is spent at restaurants

Richest Poor

Americans are considered
Under the poverty line
If we make less than
\$55 a day
The people making
Most of our clothing
Make \$2 a day
To help them
We protest
By not buying
From them
Which drives down
Their wages
8% of people worldwide

Own a car
89% of Americans
Own a car
We say we can't
Afford gas prices
So we buy
Another car
Which is even bigger
American kids have a
Bigger allowance
Than the total income
Of 1 billion
Of the world's poorest
American 10 years olds
Average more money
Per week
Than the people
That produce
What they buy
And these facts
Are getting worse
Every day

2.3.6 Music of Heaven

Tones of Creation

The vibrations
Of stringed instruments
Is how the universe
Exists in time
For each frequency
There is a different
Realm of existence
When we create music
We harmonize with
The many worlds
Of divergent realities
We can experience
Higher planes of existence
In the music of the spirit

We can feel the state of time
Differently at each tone
Musical note patterns
Correspond to levels of existence
We invoke the attention of God
When we create pleasing tones
With a heart of humility
In each rhythm
We elevate our minds
To a different aspect of creation
To a parallel world
Of spiritual blessings

Law of Music

Music is behind
Our every joy
Our every action occurs
In the backdrop of sound
The harmony we experience
With our creator
Is musical in nature
How we see life
Is music incarnate
Everything we feel
Has a unique note
Every aspect of creation
Has a musical equivalent
In art and poetry
In sculpture and ceramics
Our hearts beat
To the pulse of a drum
With a sense of music
We are balanced
In health and in spirit
In every activity
There is a splash of melody
With each breathe we take
We can hear a song
If we are attune
To the workings of the Spirit

Nature's Symphony

As we experience
The natural world
We perceive that ever aspect
Has a harmony
And a corresponding melody
The water plays a song
It flows to a specific beat
The sky is in tune
With the movements of the clouds
The trees wave to a frequency
At the rate of the wind
In each step we make
Into the realm of God's art
All of His creation
Reaches out to us
As a luxurious sound
A music without set notes
A kind of jazz of the heart
A way of seeing
That is more vivid than shouting
And at a tempo that is more regular
Than that of a marching band
We keep to ourselves
The joy of being an instrument
Of the orchestra of the Lord
When we do not express
The great music we live by

Plush Music

I can hear the tapping
Of a stuffed cow's hoof
To the beat of an
Imagined rhythm
With each step he takes
He lets out a sigh
Which I hear as
The strumming of a guitar
The whole herd

Moves in great concert
Of a living orchestra
Each note is timed
To the perfection of eternity
The joy contained within
Those little hearts
Of fabric and softness
Can shatter my pride
Into ten thousand pieces
The melody of their songs
Elevate me to a higher level
Of spiritual fruits
In every waking moment
And even in the depths of sleep
They create movements of music
Greater than the length
A runner completes in a marathon

2.3.7 Cow Fragments

Are you tired of slavery - of drudging for others
- of poverty and its attendant miseries? Then,
Vote yourself a farm.

21

Why Cows?

Cows have been abused throughout history for labor, meat, milk, leather, and manure. The related words in Chinese are "jail" and "complain."

Discrimination of the Mentally Ill

I identify with cows because I am mentally ill. The mentally ill have been the most targeted group of people for persecution, discrimination, marginalization, segregation, isolation, and more. Even as late as the 50's people were locked up for being mentally ill and even today they still receive electroshock therapy against their will.

²¹George Henry Evans in "Vote Yourself a Farm"

Personal Discrimination

I have been denied several volunteer jobs because they knew I was mentally ill although definitely qualified and have no criminal record nor have ever been institutionalized, I have not received federally mandated equal access to education which my only request that required effort from the instructor was oral test or test by paper, I have not been given a case worker because the county did not have any more available although I qualified, as a veteran I still have to travel hundreds of miles for dental treatment and have to pay for many medical expenses upfront, and to even get my disability I had to wait a year and a half which is not uncommon which if I worked in that time I would be disqualified, and I was not told about services available in my community and had to find them on my own.

Beary and Bow Campaign Issues

"No One's Toy"

We pledge to do all in our power as long as it is legal, ethical, and safe to

Environment

- Outlaw meat as it is the number one killer of American people and farm animals
- Come up with penalties worse than death for committing crimes worse than murder (like burning down forests or experimenting on animals)
- Legalize and market hemp as a safe, economical, and superior alternative to paper

Public Safety

- Put enough surveillance cameras and microphones to see and hear everyone who is committing crimes
- Make traffic violations that involve safety felonies
- Make tobacco illegal as it is one of the leading causes of death and kills many more people than banned drugs

Business

- Put 300% tariffs on all good and services not done entirely by Americans
- Disband all unions of white collar workers
- CEOs will be 100% accountable for anything illegal that anybody in their company or the company itself does
- Businesses that have more than 100 employees will not get any government funds

Government

- Make a quota that half of the government's ethnicity be Native American
- There will be a flat tax with no conditions and no way to not pay
- Give back all land in the US west of the Mississippi River to Native Americans

Leadership

Cow in my heart
My vision of life
Filling the void
My paranoia has left
There is something
About the way he lies on his back
The expression on his face
He is totally at peace
His relaxing is complete
With my mind to tap off of
And his own natural strength
There is nothing he cannot do
With stylus between his hoofs
He is at command in his house
With a plush blanket
He spreads out the bounty

Bow tie or shirt
Both cows share leadership
With a natural grace
With a genuine awkwardness
They make decisions
That further the interests of the herd
They take each day
With one hoof in front of the other
Sometimes I see in their eyes
The stress of their position
But they never complain
And ask for little
Although overflowing with presents
They prefer to spend time with me
Day after day they comfort me
Will they fade away to nothing
Or does God have plans for animals?
Is there a future for plush?
Kind fathers and concerned husbands
These are family cows
What will their line come to?
The adopted adopting others
Unwanted by a nation of ignorant
The fatherless becoming fathers
What strain it must be
To know just what to say
To make your little calf feel better
When my relatives won't accept him

Cow Slogans

- Don't eat us. We were your childhood friends.
- Don't segregate us. We are all multicolored.
- Zebras are just cows running really fast.
- Woolly mammoths are cows with poor metabolism.
- You don't still breast feed. Why do you drink our mother's milk?
- Eat grass. Look how strong we are!

- We leave no calf behind.
- We have herd mentality and we aren't violent.
- Our wives are not just vats to manufacture your chocolate.
- And the cows' eyes are not cloudy all day.
- Don't forget to shake our hooves in greeting.
- The cow bell sets our daily rhythm.
- You bring the cereal and we'll bring the milk.
- Cows with nose rings are not alternative cows.
- Look ma - no hands!
- There are cows in almost every continent.
- Cows are the victims of alien visitation
- Without cows, what would we moo?
- For every struggling lawn there is a cow solution.
- Eternity is a never ending pasture.
- Cows: the original cross country vehicle

Cow Myths throughout History

In the Icelandic Edda

Audumla came from melting ancient ice and she brought out the god Buri by licking salty ice. She gave rivers of milk to Ymir who was the father of giants who the earth was created from.

In the Hindu religion

A light shone from the creator and so the Vedas, the Fire, the Cow, and the Brahmin came to be. Cows live in the highest world and there are many hymns about them.

Dun Cow

The Dun Cow was owned by a giant that lived in Mitchell Ford. She had an endless supply of milk. A lady upset the cow because she asked for too much milk, so

the cow barged out of the ford and into Dunsmore Heath, where she was killed. A mammoth tusk is kept there as the cow's horn.

In Scottish Proverbs

The Cow of Forfar came by and drank a tub of beer that a lady left outside to cool. In the Highlands a farewell drink is taken standing in honor of the cow. The lawyer Halkstern gave a sick ox to be company for another tenant's heifer and the heifer gored the ox to death. The tenant told the lawyer the opposite happened. This is the basis for a Scottish proverb about a person who changes an opinion when he examines the issue more closely.

2.4 Liberated

2.4.1 Introduction

God not only heals but He does something greater - He has given us eternal life if only we ask forgiveness of our sins and believe in Him. We know what is right and wrong because God has given us a conscience and He knows that being human means we sin, even after salvation. That is why we need to continue to ask for forgiveness. Even though our society has rejected the poor and seems to think the only sins are sexual, does not mean that God does not care about those which society has rejected. Destroying an entire culture, wiping out an entire species, or poisoning the earth for generations are all greater sins than adultery. The way we show God that we are grateful for what He has done for us is to follow our conscience and to keep helping those in need, whether animal, human, or environmental. Sin and sickness are intertwined and most suffering has a spiritual component which does not mean that those who are afflicted deserved it, but rather they are feeling the outcome of someone else's sin.

2.4.2 Liberation from Sins

Psalms

1

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

22

2

Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause. Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek

²²Psalm 19:7-14

will he teach his way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great. What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant. Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net. Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses. Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins. Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred. O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

23

3

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah

24

²³Psalm 25

²⁴Psalm 32:1-5

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

Isaiah

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

26

2

I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

27

3

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle

²⁶Isaiah 1:16-18

²⁷Isaiah 43:25-26

tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

28

Jeremiah

Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.

29

Matthew

And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

30

Ephesians

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

31

²⁸Isaiah 55:8-13

²⁹Jeremiah 5:1

³⁰Matthew 9:2-6

³¹Ephesians 4:32

Hebrews

I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

32

James

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much

33

I John

1

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the

³²Hebrews 8:10-12

³³James 5:14-16

blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

34

2

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

35

2.4.3 Liberation from Injustice

Ruth

Our Lord Jesus Christ
Is not just of the line
Of King David
But descended from Ruth
A migrant laborer
Who was born
In another country
Stranded from her relatives
Because of a depression
And a poor harvest
She will not leave
Her mother's side
Though her mother
Begged her to

³⁴1 John 1:5-10

³⁵1 John 2:3-5

She came back
To the land
Of her fathers
Though now a foreigner
She worked on the land
Of a close relative
She only wished
To take what was left
After the harvest
The man who owned
The fields being harvested
Was pleased with her
He asked her for her hand
In marriage
And she is an ancestor
Of the Son of God

Aid

For only the cost
Of a cup of coffee
You can clear
Your conscience
From how those
You elect
Victimize those
Who are your
Fellow human beings
It is great
To feed the hungry
But keeping others
Equal to ourselves
Dependent on us
For their very lives
Does not solve
The situation
They were forced into
The aid worker
Sees a mass of famine
And a group of poor
They do not see

Individuals like themselves
Who are being kept
In a state of helplessness
By their very own
Government as well as
Our government

Reform

Brazil is now
An economic power
The third world
Is developing
At the expense
Of its poor
We create reforms
That allow more
Investment in agriculture
In education and
In health care
But without challenging
The powers that be
All that progress
Is received by
Those already rich
The only way
To break the cycle
Of devastating poverty
Is to transform
The government
And the social institutions
So that the wealth
May be spread
More evenly
And so that the poor
Can simply live

Liberation

The poor must come together
To advocate for themselves

To realize what holds them
Back from equal wealth
And causes their oppression
So that they may organize
And act in concert
To bring about change
In the social institutions
That hold back the poor
First they claim all that
The system currently offers
Better wages and working conditions
Healthcare and education
Housing and more
Then they struggle for the
Transformation of the society
For the broadest participation
In the decisions of power
A more balanced
Arrangement of power
Amongst the different classes
And a way of life
That brings inspiration to others
Liberation is spreading
In this generation of poor
Free trade unions
Peasant organizations
Action and study groups
Popular political parties
And Christian communities
Are all in on the struggle

Christian Community

The Gospel of Christ
Must inspire us
To break with
The instruments of oppression
To recognize the basic
Human dignity and rights
Of those beyond our borders
We must reach out in faith

With a social conscience
Christianity must be on the side
Of the least of these
We must join in the struggles
Of popular movements
Already committed to
Land rights and rebuilding of
The depressed parts of town
The rights of indigenous
And other marginalized people
The Gospel advocates
The advancement not of the average
But of those who are denied
Even the most basic of human rights
When Christians join in
In the liberation of the poor
We open ourselves up to
Ridicule, persecution, and martyrdom
Which reveals to us
The urgency of this movement

Levels of Liberation

From seminaries to bible studies
From the rationale to the confrontation
From the meetings of entire church bodies
To the local study groups
From lectures and papers to sermons
Talks and celebrations
From books and articles to notes and letters
Every member of the Christian community
Each has a role in the theology of liberation
This is where faith and history meet
We all act as one and share the roles
The pastor and professional
The lay leader and the church members
As well as sociologists, economists
Teachers and technicians
Each have a place in this system
It takes a variety of forms
From the theologians doctrines

To the confrontational aspects in
Research centers and Christian schools
And also in the spontaneity of
Local church members
Popular theology is expressed in symbols
As well as in the written and spoken word
The symbols of oppression from Scripture
Are equated with the political and social forces
Who are causing the specific problems

Conservative Estimates

500 million people are starving to death
1.6 billion people are happy to live to 45
1 billion people live in complete poverty
1.5 billion people have no access to
Any kind of medical care
500 million people have incomes
Of less than \$150 a year
814 million people cannot read
2 billion people live without
A continual water supply

2.4.4 Practicing Liberation Theology

1

Being committed to liberation theology
Requires contact with the oppressed
First we try to find why people are oppressed
Then we try to decide God's plan for the poor
Finally we decide what action needs to be taken

2

The oppressed are young children and teenagers
Indigenous people and laborers
Unemployed and part time workers
The marginalized and the elderly
All of these groups are poor
And on the edges of cities and in the country

3

There are several explanations for poverty
One blames the poor
It says they are lazy or ignorant
The logical solution is aid
One blames underdevelopment
It says the country needs to industrialize more
The answer is to give loans and technology
This is also called reform
The final explanation recognizes
The cause of poverty for what it is
Poverty is caused by oppression
The economy is designed to exploit people
And excludes them from the wealth making
process
The solution is a revolution of the society
Where the powers are replaced with other powers

4

The oppressed are not just poor
They are victimized socially as well
There is racial discrimination
Against people with darker skin
There is ethnic discrimination
Against indigenous groups and minorities
And there is gender discrimination
Against women
This discrimination is part of the basic structure
Of society and the establishment
These types of oppression
Makes the economic ones worse

5

The poor are representations of Jesus
Who was rejected and Who suffered
Who was poor and persecuted

And Who is on the side of the poor
Being poor means being dependent,
Indebted, anonymous, contempted, and humili-
ated

6

The poor see God's message as
God as the advocate of the oppressed
The Liberator from bondage
The Prophet of a new world
His kingdom given to the poor
And the church as a model of total sharing
These questions all tie in with
The theology of conversion, grace, and resurrec-
tion

7

Exodus is an epic of the political
And religious liberation of a people in slavery
And through their contract
With God became God's people
The Prophets were uncompromising
In their denouncement of injustice
Proclaiming the rights of the poor
And their declaration of the salvation message
The Gospels present the centrality of Jesus
His declaration of a new kingdom
His liberation by action
And the final meaning of history
In His death and resurrection
Acts portrays the ideal Christian community
Which is one of freedom and liberation
And Revelations describes the immense war
Of God's people against
The monsters of history
In a symbolic narrative

8

We go about liberation theology
With the weapons of peace being
Dialogue, persuasion, moral pressure
Passive resistance, evangelical resolve,
Marches, strikes, and demonstrations

2.4.5 Animal Liberation

Animal not Plant

1

An animal is a living being
Created directly by God
Animals are not just objects
To be used how we see fit
They have feelings and souls
They are to be taken care of
Like we do our own children

2

There is no excuse for cruelty
Towards our weaker friends
We have all the power
In the human animal relationship
We should not abuse this power

3

Because animal are not always
Committed to just one spouse
For their entire lives
We think
That they are not worthy
Of our respect and compassion

4

Instead of looking at animals
As a degenerate form of humans

We should look to animals
Kindness and genuine affection
As the highest goals for expanding
Our own morality and godliness

5

The more we find out about animals
The more we realize their intelligence
And their range of possible emotions
The difference between an animal
And a human is a matter of degree
There is nothing essentially specific
To humans about reasoning or emotions

6

The only thing that separates us
From the animals is our technology
And our power over them
We reach out our hand
In destruction in a way that no animal
Has ever dreamed of

7

Could you imagine an animal
Trying to wipe out an entire species
Or destroy an entire culture?
Could you imagine an animal
That would poison its own environment?

8

I challenge those who think they are moral
Or think they are smart
To study the behavior of our weaker friends
And try to find a way in which
They don't excel beyond us
Intellectually and morally

Jesus and Animals

1

We were given the Ten Commandments
To be a written record of our conscience
But the law was not limited to
Only 10 offenses
The Ten Commandments were a summary
Of that vast codification
Of what we know to be right and wrong

2

When Jesus came to earth
Representing the perfect man
He challenged us to not just refrain
From murder and stealing and adultery
We were to stop the thoughts in our heads
That were the beginning of a desire
That could eventually result in the breaking
Of one of the laws

3

Jesus expanded the law in one way
And contracted it in another
We are to love our neighbor as ourselves
This goes beyond just our actions
But into our feelings and our reasoning
We are to refrain from having
Even evil thoughts towards another

4

But Jesus never specified
That we only treat people with respect
We were to reach out to others
Beyond just refraining from sin
Or even the thought of it
But to work for the betterment of others
Which focused on what Jesus called
The least of these
Who are the victims of our society

5

The animals suffer for our food
They suffer for our entertainment
For our beauty products
For our "advances" in technology
We should think first
Of our weaker brothers and sisters
And improve the lives of animals first
Before we take on causes to help people

6

Our domination of nature was meant
As a responsibility and a challenge
It was not meant for us to exploit
The weak and powerless creatures
We should look for ways
To go beyond the literal words
Written in the law and expand
Our compassion to the limits of
Our imagination as the road that
Jesus has only started us on

7

Challenge yourself to go beyond
The letter of the law and recognize
That the spirit of the law
Is an ever expanding frontier
Don't be content to just do no harm
But reach out to those who are weaker
To make their lives the best they can be

Master of Humans

1

Does it scare you
When you think of a wild animal
And what they might do to you
If you come too close?

Try to think how the animal feels
To have its home taken away
And to have no food left

2

Is it right that for better scenery
We build our homes in their habitat?
It is no surprise that they venture
Into our cities for food and for shelter

3

What really scares a person
Is the idea of supernatural or alien
Enemies that have more power
And more technology than us
As we venture out into space
Or explore portals to other worlds
Through drugs or magic
We have something to fear
That is greater than ourselves

4

We become the animals
And we are hunted
By higher powers than ourselves
Is it wrong for aliens to victimize humans
When we hurt our fellow animals?
If our criteria for sentience is
Intelligence and technology
Don't these other powers
Have the right to persecute us?

5

We are afraid of our machines
That one day we will design them
To be too smart to just serve us
When our machines become
More intelligent and sophisticated than us
According to our reasons for dominance
The machines have the rights
To use and exploit us

Chapter 3

Total Person and Society

by Ben Huot

3.1 First Things

3.1.1 Logo



I should explain what the logo is meant to be representing. The guy is a pen, which is me, which comes from my first poem in Philosophy Core, called Creative Process, where I refer to myself as doing Tai Chi, with my pen being my body. The idea is based on "the pen is mightier than the sword" so I created "the Bible is mightier than the pen".

The Bible is shooting out flames because in Ephesians it talks about spiritual warfare and the Bible is the only armament that is offensive. (It means offensive instead of defensive. These are common terms used in combat. The sword is the only spiritual weapon. All the other armaments expressed in Ephesians are protective and defensive in nature like a shield, a helmet, a breastplate, etc.) The flames are meant as in James when it talks about being purified by fire or struggles with temptation in our lives. Isaiah also was purified by a live coal to his lips by a Seraphim. So the usage of fire is not evil or anything violent. Think of it as purifying.

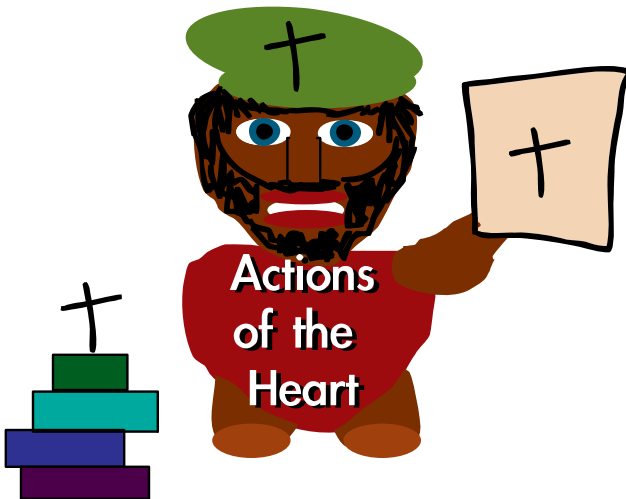
I would ideally like it to show the sword turned in-

ward to his chest, symbolizing like in many fantasy books that when they defeat the great evil force in the world, they are left with the greatest task, which is to defeat the evil within. The Bible is said to be a 2 sided sword, with the ability to cut between bone and marrow, and show the truth. Christ's tongue is said to be a 2 edged sword in Revelations, to defeat the Devil with. The reason I didn't show this is it looks like he is committing suicide.

The spiritual warfare is not against people, ideas, or even spirits. It is about fighting for the purity of our own minds. It is an internal thing. Like the Native American proverb "my greatest enemy is myself." This purity is in regard to our own sins and does not refer to purity in any other sense. But this is a process, not an outcome, as it is not possible for us to live without sin.

This warfare is only spiritual in the sense that it is not militant, social, economic, or political. This is for my own moral and ethical development and consists of practical qualities I try, with Christ's help, to cultivate like humility, compassion, kindness, and seriousness and do not correspond to anything supernatural.

3.1.2 Other Books



My text books and picture books contain most of my work over the past 10 years. These include my reading of some 235 books containing the philosophical and religious thinking of the worlds cultures for several thousand years and the application of the main themes of some of the major Old Testament Prophets and major works of the New Testament.

The main point of this work is to get people to stop-ping living their lives with their minds, but instead follow their hearts. I bring a radically different combination of viewpoints that you have not heard of before. I am not asking people to follow what I have written, but rather let the words stir up some sort of emotional response in your heart.

I challenge my readers to come up with their own unique ideas and that can lead the world in a new direction. We need a much broader diversity of ideas in our culture to deal with the problems we are facing in America and throughout the rest of the world.

3.1.3 For More Information

For more books and information, visit me on the web at <http://benjamin-newton.com/>

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at <mailto:ben@benjamin-newton.com> I even enjoy constructive criticism

3.1.4 Cover Graphic



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3.1.6 Introduction

In *The Free Thinking Christian* series, I showed how the Bible teaches us to be both humble and compassionate as well as kind and serious, and in *Justice and Hope*, I talked about how God calls us to both have hope in everlasting life but also to work towards class justice here on earth. In *Total Person and Society*, I unite the predominantly atheist view that sees the person as composed only of body and mind and the predominantly Christian view that the body and mind are entirely manifestations of sin. The paradox of people living as spiritual beings while still existing in the flesh and the mind is what this book is about, as the Bible ministers to the entirety of the person and the society they live in. This book was mainly inspired by Isaiah, Psalms, and parts of the New Testament as well as Ayn Rand, Hannah Arendt, Fashionology, and several lesser known Existentialists.

3.2 Foundations

3.2.1 Internal Alchemy

The Mystic

The mystic makes a choice
To follow his heart
In the face of the cravings
Of his stomach

And the projections of his mind
He reaches out for truth
Stretching his physical body
To the very limits
So that he may purify
His very average soul
Mysticism is not about
Supernatural powers
Or about an expanded mind
It is not about
Living in poverty
Either physical or spiritual
It is not based on
Hidden techniques
Or secret writings
Mystics do not wish
To see visions
Or witness the paranormal
Living as a mystic
Is a way of life
It is an ethics
That is all encompassing
It is not primarily
About self control
It is not shrouded in mystery
There are no rituals
And there is nothing hidden
Or reserved for those
With greater abilities
In discipline or intelligence
Mysticism is an attitude
It is the act of
Drawing closer to God
In many ways
There is no path
And there is no destination
There is just the person
And his Creator
A mystic does not withdraw
From human society
The mystic can have

A number of friends
A mystic should be sociable
And out going
But he does not need
To be a teacher
Mysticism is about action
As well as thoughts
Focusing on correct thoughts
Overflows into compassion
You start with humility
And you carry it out
Into helping those in need
The mystic lives the Gospel
According to Luke

The Mind

Our thoughts flash
Like lightening
Across our mind
In an instant
We leap from
Joy to frustration
From peace to anger
Our minds are
Our perception
And the basis
For our consciousness
Everything we think
Everything we know
Travels across
The frontiers of our brain
We live in the world
According to the whims
Of what our brain
Decides to reveal
There is no event
That we experience
Out of the world
Of our own minds
When we think

We are objective
We show our ignorance
Schizophrenia is a root-kit
In our brains
When the mind
Is compromised
We will never know
How it affects
What we know
To be true
What we feel
And the reality
We live in

The Heart

The icy wind cuts
Through my heart
The darkness is complete
When my heart aches most
It is in the last hours
Before the sun rises
That the night
Penetrates deepest
In each moment
Of the complete silence
The imagination grows
Impossible noises
Until they are deafening
When it is cold
Or when the sky
Is covered in dark clouds
There is room for magic
And the imagination
Comes by in full force
What we feel
In the distant places
Of our sleeping mind
Comes alive to dance
Through our waking reality
The times of darkness

Bring memories of familiarity
And the stillness
Reminds us of potential
Worlds of fantasy
My heart is forged
Out of cold metal
The fire melts
My harsh exterior
The freezing water
Strengthens my will
My heart grows
In intensity of tempo
I fan the flames
And breathe life
Into the white coals
I am continually beaten
Until my blade
Can survive the striking
Of my opponent
My heart is only ready
When my blood has warmed
And my lungs are fully
Expanding and retracting

The Stomach

Early morning hunger
Is invigorating and helpful
Late night hunger
Is depressing and sad
I stretch wide
My stomach walls
As I yawn and flex
With each sigh and step
My stomach moves in concert
With all my other organs
With each word and breathe
The stomach expands and contracts
We see our stomachs
As part of digestion
And little more

Feeling come from the bowels
And the stomach turns
With each thought of
Anticipation and reflection
Our stomachs are our center
Our pathway to sustenance
Both spiritual and physical
We feel bounty and plenty
With our stomachs
We praise God
From the bottom of our stomachs
We say no
To what our stomach desires

3.2.2 Philosophy of Religion

Theology includes Philosophy

Everyone has a perspective
Everyone has opinions
There is nothing theological
That is not influenced by philosophy
We do not live in a vacuum
And ideas come from somewhere
There are no new philosophies
Just restatements done with less eloquence
There is no way to only study the Bible
We are only fooling ourselves
And no one else
We cannot distance ourselves
From our own foolishness
We are corrupt to the core
It is not possible to read the Bible
Without prejudice and without feelings
The Bible is not meant to be
A list of rules or a systematic theology
Don't you think there is a reason
That there are so many views on
Every branch of theology?
The Bible is not meant to be interpreted
The same by the entire church

The Bible is not about a set theology
No one will ever uncover
The full philosophy of the Bible
The greatest theologians
Have only scratched the surface
And were wrong more times
Than they were right
Verses don't mean just one thing
The Bible should not
Be read in any set order
Verses should not stand alone
There are no hidden meanings
But few meanings have been found
There is more to a single phrase
Than can be understood
By the human mind in all eternity
And the Bible is only one small part
Of who God is
To say we were only influenced by the Bible
Or that we believe what the Bible says
Does not adequately explain our beliefs
We have presuppositions and experiences
But these aren't necessarily stumbling blocks
Feelings are great and mental exercises are of
use
But we need to reflect on our background
Or we will be repeating the mistakes
Of even the greatest of theologians
It is ok to not be right on even the main points
To disagree creates a healthy diversity
The church does not need core beliefs
Our doctrines only hold us back
There is more to life than theology
And there is more to the Bible
Than your statements of faith

Honesty

When you make claims
Which you use Scripture
To support your position

It is not honest
When you don't state
Your intentions up front
And explain your background
We are not merely spiritual beings
We are not just vessels
Of God's will
We have our own
Hopes, desires, and dreams
We are not pure spirits
With empty minds
There is a psychology
To religious beliefs
Ideas don't come
Out of a vacuum
We cannot wall ourselves
Off from unbelievers
We cannot understand
Our culture expect by
Reading books
Besides the Bible
Our minds are sponges
And we absorb ideas
From places we are
Often unaware
This is the use of
The study of philosophy
We get impressions
From many venues
We just assume
They are all from the Bible
Just because we are Christians
What we come up with
Is not independent
Of our culture and history
Ideas influence us
In subtle and surprising ways
We do not need to read a book
To be influenced by capitalism
Or to evaluate atheism
We are part of a larger

Ecosystem of dialogue
Great thinkers build
On what others have said
Christian and otherwise
Great theologians study philosophy
Some of the greatest philosophers
Were trained as theologians first
The early church adopted
Many ideas from Greek paganism
There is no way to be purely Christian
Without affection and sympathies

Freedom of Choice

Scripture is not meant
To be understood intellectually
Nor by our feelings alone
Although Scripture ministers
To all areas of our person
We should keep our focus
On the heart and the will
It is good to have diversity
Especially in opinion and perspective
The Bible is not meant
To be interpreted in just one way
We don't need an entire denomination
To be in agreement on any doctrine
Don't you think there is a reason
Why no one can agree
Or that theologians were interested
In such different topics
Throughout divergent eras?
The more widespread the views
The harder it is to see a pattern
God deliberately designed the Bible
To be poetic instead of legalistic
God could have just written
A list of rules and left it at that
We could just turn off our brains entirely
But that is not God's nature
He wants us to make rational decisions

And for different people
To go into different directions
And to see the Bible from different views
We have to realize that God speaks
To our entire person
That God is spirit and flesh
Christianity is not meant to be an organization
Or to have a rigid structure
Even the Bible explains salvation
Differently every time
All believers will enter Heaven by grace
But each will do it in a different way

3.2.3 Total Isolation

1

Most people work a 9 to 5 job
They put the required effort
In their jobs
And they are content
With the results
They don't commit themselves
Totally to anything
But there are situations
Some of us find ourselves in
Where there is no downtime
There are no breaks
Time to sleep is minimal
Safety is non-existent
And there is no method
Of getting away from prime time

2

When you enlist in the Army
Your life is no longer your own
Joining is the last decision you make
Your intelligence is of no use
And your training a waste of time
There is no way you can get prepared

For a life without freedom
When you lived a life with
Choices for everything
There is only one way to march
One way to shoot a rifle
There is one way to make your bed
And there is only one way
To don your protective mask
There is one way to throw a grenade
And one way to dig a foxhole
There is no time to think about
Theories of war or the Geneva conventions
There is never a time when you
Can let your guard down
Your life is totally committed
You have your reasons for enlisting
But they matter less and less
Enlistment is a one way tunnel
And there are no stops or ways out
You can shoot yourself in the foot
But then your job will just be harder
You can follow your job to the letter
And yet be valued the same
As the biggest screw-up
You could follow directions exactly
And still get captured
The others fail you all the time
But if you ever fail them
The cost is enormous
If you fail to listen to instructions
You could be the next victim
Of the war on terror
You could pay attention to
Every last detail
And still end up needing to be
Identified by DNA

3

When you are committed
Even when voluntarily

There is no escape
From the terror
Your days pass by
With hours of no memory
The pain takes weeks
To lessen noticeably
You must stay in Hell
And there is no quick way out
You are not informed of your rights
But it would not matter
You still could never understand
You are not in your right mind
The doctor controls your fate
You can be sent to the state hospital
And never be released
Or get out in a couple weeks
You have no choice
What really scares you
Are others like yourself
You are all in the same boat
You cannot get out
Until you are scanned
You are crammed into
A small tunnel
And you cannot leave
Until they are done
You cannot see out
And they cannot give you
Enough tranquilizers to calm you
You want to return to normal
But you cannot work
For at least a year
Or you will never get
Your state pension
You have to wait another year
For low income housing
If you are lucky
You have family
Who can and will take you in
And who will do your paperwork
None of it starts until

You know about it and register
If you live on the street
You are stuck being homeless
And there is little hope
Of being able to get out

4

It is a real shock
The first time a person
Realizes that old people
Are rude and mean
This is the generation
Of entitlement
Social Security was designed
Not for the poor but for the rich
Senior citizens think
Everybody owes them
They think that because
They won World War II
That they are superior
To the following generations
They think we get off easy
Because inflation has raised
Our minimum wage
They think because we have
Less real money than them
That it is because we didn't
Work hard enough
They are out of touch
With current events
They think that Iraq
Was responsible for 9/11
They don't know the difference
Between Iran and Iraq
They still don't trust Germans
Or the Japanese
They are sensitive about
Communism even though
It was defeated over 15 years ago
They talk about their

Grotesque health problems
And never bathe
They are racist and prejudiced
They act like children
But think young people
Are immature
They are mostly uneducated
And they just sit around
All the time
They hate technology
Or any invention of the
Last 25 years
They don't like music
That was composed
In the 50s or later
They sing nursery rhymes
And can't remember who they are
This was my experience
Living in a retirement home
In my mid twenties

3.2.4 Comfort for the Afflicted

Isaiah

For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a
strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge
from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when
the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against
the wall.

1

And therefore will the Lord wait, that he
may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he
be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you:
for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are
all they that wait for him. For the people shall
dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no
more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the

¹Isaiah 25:4

voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

2

But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the Lord, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the Lord, and shalt glory in the

²Isaiah 30:18-21

Holy One of Israel. When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

3

Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them. And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted. Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

4

³Isaiah 41:8-20

⁴Isaiah 49:8-13

The Lord God hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord God will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up. Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.

5

For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody. Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people. My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. Hearken unto

⁵Isaiah 50:5-10

me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation. Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon? Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over? Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away. I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; And forgettest the Lord thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

6

Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the Lord hath called thee as a

⁶Isaiah 51:3-13

woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

8

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give

⁸Isaiah 58:6-12

unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them. For I the Lord love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

9

I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the

⁹Isaiah 61

Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses. For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their Saviour. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

10

Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the Lord shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.

11

After Isaiah

This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are

¹⁰Isaiah 63:7-9

¹¹Isaiah 66:10-14

not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him. He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope. He giveth his cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach. For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

12

The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him

13

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when

¹²Lamentations 3:21-33

¹³Nahum 1:7

men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

14

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid

15

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

16

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

17

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

18

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For

¹⁴Matthew 5:3-12

¹⁵Matthew 14:27

¹⁶Luke 7:13

¹⁷John 14:27

¹⁸Romans 8:28

I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor
things present, nor things to come, Nor height,
nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able
to separate us from the love of God, which is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

19

For whatsoever things were written aforetime
were written for our learning, that we through
patience and comfort of the scriptures might
have hope.

20

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the
God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all
our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort
them which are in any trouble, by the comfort
wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.
For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so
our consolation also aboundeth by Christ

21

For we have not an high priest which cannot be
touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but
was in all points tempted like as we are, yet
without sin.

22

For even hereunto were ye called: because
Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an exam-
ple, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no
sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who,
when he was reviled, reviled not again; when

¹⁹Romans 8:35-39

²⁰Romans 15:4

²¹2 Corinthians 1:3-5

²²Hebrews 4:15

he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

23

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

24

3.3 Government and Society

3.3.1 Capitalism and Atheism

Un American

Conservatives say that
It is un American
To challenge the power
Of multinational corporations
But how American
Are these companies?
They don't pay any taxes
To the American government
They don't employ US workers
They are invested in by
Unstable dictatorships
Countries in the Middle East
Their bank accounts are in
Offshore islands
Or Swiss banks

²³1 Peter 2:21-24

²⁴1 Peter 5:6-7

Democracy vs. Capitalism

Our enemy during the cold war
Was communism
And millions died for this cause
But what were we fighting for?
Democracy isn't the opposite of communism
Any more than medicine
Is the opposite of sociology
How could people be against communism?
A more equitable distribution of wealth
Should fit in comfortably
In a country with a distribution of power
What we were really fighting was dictatorship
But we supported other dictators
The only thing that differentiated
Our "communist" enemies from
Our dictator friends
Was who would open their markets
Their raw materials and cheap labor
To multi-national corporations
To sap every drop of possible profit from
The reality is that no one has ever
Or would ever give up power willingly
The only reason why we can speak freely
In America is because our souls
Are bought and paid for in full
The only way the government would allow
Government that is voted in office
Is if they had absolute control over the media
We can say whatever we want in America
So long as no one hears it or doesn't act on it

Freedom and Terror

We are afraid of being attacked without warn-
ing
We lost 3,000 of our people
Those in the Middle East are tired of being vic-
tims
Of American violence

We have killed off hundreds of thousands of
them
And we are fighting the wrong nation
It is just like how the police in America
Don't bother to solve crimes
But rather find the nearest person of color
To be a scapegoat to appease the grieving
Who is really a threat to who?
A few thousand poor people
With improvised weapons living in tents
Or the most wealthy nation in the world
Which has the capability to fight the entire
Rest of the world together and win
We spend more in a day on war
Than our entire annual budget for education
The president thinks it is a waste of money
To offer free medical care for the poor
But keeps on donating money to the rich
Who have drove their companies into the ground
We spend more on software
That we could get a better version for free
Than the annual salary of the person
Operating the computer
In a third world country
Our kids take drugs to escape from reality
And that finances the Middle Eastern terrorists
We invade their country but won't
Destroy the crops that it comes from
For fear of alienating ourselves from the locals
There is an easy solution
It is against the religious beliefs of those
Who are growing the drugs to continue with it
So all we need to do is guarantee them the
same money
From selling something that is not a drug
But our government is really afraid of
Alienating the muti-national corporations
That got the government elected

More than Bread

Man does not live on bread alone
What is best for man
Is not limited to what is best
For his taste-buds
And for his sensual enjoyment
A person has more needs
Than food clothing and shelter
Man needs a good relationship
With God with other people
And with the animals and plants
And his entire ecosystem
Which is primarily spiritual
What we see is not all there is
What we can sense is not eternal
Satisfying our feelings
And maintaining physical health
Is not the entire picture
People have hearts and souls
They need to help others
They need to give of themselves
This may not be a balanced accounting
In the realm of money
But the heart and the soul
Have needs as well
What the body craves can actually
Destroy the mind
What the mind craves can
Destroy the heart
We need to know there is more
To life than eating and sleeping
What we need to be satisfied
Is in the giving of ourselves
To our Heavenly Father first
In humility and reverence
And to those who are in need
Who are physically, emotionally, or spiritually
Hungry and malnourished
We need to sacrifice our own needs
So that we both may live better lives

It is bad to be a slave to work
But it is worse to be a slave to your belly
This is the problem
With solutions to problems
That are only economic
This is why communism and capitalism
Both fail at improving lives
Like treating medical problems
Without awareness of the patients minds
Does not guarantee good health
It does not matter how much money
You have or how protected you are
If you cannot make the lives
Of anyone else better
Than how can you call yourself human?
Even animals help other animals in need
Even plants provide for life
Giving of themselves
And returning the resources back
When they part with life
The point of a business is to make money
At least theoretically
And a corporation only has a responsibility
To its shareholders
There is nothing to be gained
By society as a whole
Even if the business advances technology
Or extends our lives
Because it is doing it at the cost
Of other people and animal's welfare
To live happy and fulfilling lives
We do not need cell phones
Or computer games
Having a more powerful military
Does not guarantee we will win wars
Having the best education system
Does not mean there will be no crime
Immunizing people against diseases
Does not guarantee a long life
Man does not live on bread alone

Conscience

Some people say we need
Objective standards to live by
So that we can all agree
On what is right and wrong
We make all these turns of logic
And people are then
Afraid to make choices
Or more likely turned off by
Ethics in particular
Or philosophy in general
We do not need to understand
The phenomenology of Hegel
To know what is right
Is it surprising that basic laws
Are similar across belief systems
And that people still find
The Bible is relevant to them?
Is it a wonder that atheists
Are much more likely
To be afraid of death?
There are absolutes
And this does not mean
That we can be objective
But rather that the Creator
Of the multi-verses
Actually exists
That we are responsible
For our own actions
Whether or not we claim
We didn't understand
Do businessman really
Believe if being honest
That killing off an entire species
Or leveling an entire forest
Or experimenting on animals
Or wiping out an entire civilization
Is not wrong?
People lie and rationalize
God doesn't

Logic and Religion

Why do we need rules?
Why can we just live
By doing what helps ourselves?
How do we define
What helps ourselves?
Is there no such thing as generosity?
Do we think that all our desires
Could be satisfied on our own?
Could we have a society
Where everyone did whatever
Gained him the most
And ignored the spiritual dimension?
Spiritual forces are at play
And are involved in every thought
And action we make
Denying that there is a God
Does not make it so
And getting rid of religion
Because some people abused it
Does not solve the real problem
The real problem is that
When we seek to satisfy
Our own desires
And do not keep our focus on God
And on those in need
Our desires escalate
First, we are fed with bread
Then, all we want is cake
Then all we want to have is a job
Then all we want is to be middle class
Then all we want is a car
Then all we want is a house
Then all we want is a wife
Then all we want is a family
But seeking all these
For the benefit of just yourself
Adds up to a very sad world
That no one would want to live in
Do you ever wonder what

Car companies would do
If wheel technology was patented?
How would we communicate
If the English language was copyrighted?
What if libraries were illegal?
How could people afford to do research?
What if we didn't have free education?
What if there were no scholarships?
The point is that even the universe
Did not come out of a vacuum
We are all interrelated to each other
And we all have had help
No one is a self made man
Businesses get more government money
Than those on welfare
We need to see to our whole
Community and its welfare
If we are to live in peace with each other

On Marx and Engels

Communism has failed
And yet it has never actually been tried
We associate freedom
With domination by monopolies
And morality with corruption
The whole world is oriented
Around how to make a few people
Even richer than they are now
The only developments we see
Are first applied to warfare
Or they receive no funds
We want to minimize our losses
But if they are not Americans
We don't care how many suffer
Even those who are our allies
Unless they are white
We are only limited in
The deployment of violence
By our fear of retaliation
But that is not great

In a world we dominate
In every sense of the word
We can afford to launch
Preventative wars against countries
Who are driven by morality
Just because we have no values
We think freedom is about money
And the only sin is enjoying sex
We think that people's behavior
In their bedrooms
Is more important than what
Others do in boardrooms
We think we are so different
Than our greatest enemies
But we really see life the same way
They only hate us because we are rich
And we only persecute them
Because we use different vocabulary
Giving money to those in need
Is considered corruption
And our only values
Are about saving money
Because their may be inefficiency
In the government running welfare
We get rid of it entirely
There is less and less of a middle class
And people only think they are
Because they keep changing
The meaning of the word
We are continuing to get poorer
More in spirit than money
But we keep on voting
For those who created our problems
The word liberal is so vilified
That the average American
Thinks the poor should be punished
We keep on taxing alcohol and tobacco
With no restraint
And no one speaks out for the poor
But even our poor
Are rich by the world's standards

But no one considers Africa
Or anywhere there isn't oil
We only treat those in the
Middle East as people
To the extent that we
Are addicted to oil
We know we are running out
But it is considered un-American
To use alternatives or to conserve
American values consumerism
Most our economy is based on spending
The only thing our government
Asks of us is to get ourselves into debt
For things we don't need
Or even care much about
The ideas of Marx and Engels
Are very much alive
Their solution would never work
But their statement of the problem
Is as relevant today as when
They first wrote it
The difference is that the proletariat
Is in the Third World
But anyone who isn't white
We really have no time for

Marxism is Defeated

We have long since defeated
What we call communism
And yet we still think it alive
And fear it alone
Basically we equate any idea
Of justice or peace
As a ruse to a dictatorship
The only people we trust
Are the cowards that send
Our children to war
And spend their time in office
Finding ways to make themselves richer
With no thought as to the consequences

We think that war means peace
And that evil is good
We claim to be a Christian nation
And yet our values
Are whatever makes the most money
We don't care if the corporations
Control the government
We call this democracy
And claim that is what we fight for
But the only people that win
Are those supplying the weapons
Our heads of state are capitalists
And the only thing that motivates them
Is the interests of those with
The most money
Because they never spend any of it
But on charities that get them more money
They are considered good and moral
We think that every rich man
Got his wealth by his work alone
And the only way God blesses us
Is by making us materially rich
Christ would be a liberal
And that makes Christians mad
Because that means they are in the wrong
They are too busy persecuting
Those who look Middle Eastern to them
Than to think about compassion or humility
They see Christ as a conqueror
Basically Rome is their God
They only pray to God
Because they think that will help them
Win more wars
Like a superstition they pick and choose
Obscure references and equate them
With invented meanings
They are right on every detail
Of every subtlety of cultural meaning
And yet miss the main ideas

3.3.2 Greed is Bad

The Prophets on Greed

How is the faithful city become an harlot!
it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged
in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become
dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes
are rebellious, and companions of thieves: ev-
ery one loveth gifts, and followeth after re-
wards: they judge not the fatherless, neither
doth the cause of the widow come unto them.
Therefore saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts,
the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me
of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine en-
emies: And I will turn my hand upon thee, and
purely purge away thy dross, and take away all
thy tin:

25

All ye beasts of the field, come to devour,
yea, all ye beasts in the forest. His watchmen
are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all
dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying
down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy
dogs which can never have enough, and they
are shepherds that cannot understand: they all
look to their own way, every one for his gain,
from his quarter. Come ye, say they, I will fetch
wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong
drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and
much more abundant.

26

Therefore I am full of the fury of the Lord;
I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out
upon the children abroad, and upon the assem-
bly of young men together: for even the hus-
band with the wife shall be taken, the aged

²⁵Isaiah 1:21-25

²⁶Isaiah 56:9-12

with him that is full of days. And their houses shall be turned unto others, with their fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the Lord. For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

27

Why then is this people of Jerusalem slid-den back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return. I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle. Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord. How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he it; the pen of the scribes is in vain. The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them? Therefore will I give their wives unto others, and their fields to them that shall inherit them: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush:

28

²⁷Jeremiah 6:11-13

²⁸Jeremiah 8:5-12

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

29

Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work; That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and it is cieled with cedar, and painted with vermillion. Shalt thou reign, because thou closest thyself in cedar? did not thy father eat and drink, and do judgment and justice, and then it was well with him? He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him: was not this to know me? saith the Lord. But thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it.

30

Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the Lord hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon. O thou that dwellest upon many waters, abundant in treasures, thine end is come, and the measure of thy covetousness.

²⁹Jeremiah 17:9-11

³⁰Jeremiah 22:13-17

31

In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord God. Behold, therefore I have smitten mine hand at thy dishonest gain which thou hast made, and at thy blood which hath been in the midst of thee. Can thine heart endure, or can thine hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with thee? I the Lord have spoken it, and will do it. And I will scatter thee among the heathen, and disperse thee in the countries, and will consume thy filthiness out of thee.

32

And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.

33

Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand. And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

³¹Jeremiah 51:12-13

³²Ezekiel 22:12-15

³³Ezekiel 33:31-33

34

Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity. They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity. The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the Lord, and say, Is not the Lord among us? none evil can come upon us. Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

35

The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up. The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

36

Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:

37

³⁴Micah 2:1-2

³⁵Micah 3:9-12

³⁶Micah 7:2-4

³⁷Habakkuk 2:5

New Testament on Greed

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

38

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

39

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

40

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

41

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him,

³⁸Matthew 6:19-21

³⁹Matthew 6:24

⁴⁰Matthew 13:22

⁴¹Matthew 16:24-26

Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

42

Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

43

⁴²Matthew 19:16-24

⁴³Matthew 22:17-21

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

44

That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

45

And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

⁴⁴Mark 4:18-19⁴⁵Mark 7:20-23

46

When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

47

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

48

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

⁴⁶Luke 12:13-21

⁴⁷Luke 14:12-14

⁴⁸John 6:26-27

49

But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

50

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

51

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked

⁴⁹Romans 1:28-32

⁵⁰1 Corinthians 5:11

⁵¹Ephesians 5:1-5

some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him

52

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

53

For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

54

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but

⁵²Colossians 3:1-10

⁵³Philippians 3:17-19

⁵⁴1 Thessalonians 2:3-6

patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

55

He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

56

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than

⁵⁵1 Timothy 3:2-5

⁵⁶1 Timothy 6:4-11

lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

57

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

58

From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and

⁵⁷2 Timothy 3:1-8

⁵⁸Hebrews 13:5

purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

59

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

60

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

61

⁵⁹James 4:1-10

⁶⁰2 Peter 2:1-3

⁶¹1 John 2:15-17

3.4 Fashion and Consumerism

3.4.1 Computers as Fashion

Computers by Generation

Computers are more than products
We use for their utility
Computers are a method
Of showing where you fit
In society as a whole
People like to flock
To certain technologies
According to their generation
My parents' generation
And older
Do not like computers at all
My generation uses computers
For research primarily
The next generation is interested
In virtual communities
And the sharing of their
Digital creations
My generation still reads books
To get information
But read the Internet
For current news
My parents generation
Still watches TV
Their parents read the newspaper
My generation plays
Computer games to socialize
And stay current
Computer have affected
All areas of life
But culture has been influenced
To the highest degree
Websites are becoming mainstream
For every kind of business
And people just assume
Everyone has email

Internet chat is mainstream
And so is interactivity
Web pages both visually
With animation and motion
And the ability to customize
And take ownership
In the web sites they frequent
Some do this simply with comments
While most major companies
Host blogs for employees
The campaigning for elections
Is focused on the Internet
More and more
Anyone can be a journalist now
Without any official office
And the independents
Publish more accurate information
Everything is going the route
Of paid for by advertisements
Some entire movies are an ad
And many times it is hard to tell
How much of the story
Is based around advertisements

Mobility and Cell Phones

Everyone now has a cell phone
Parents even buy ones
For small children
People send messages
And get email on tiny screens
They even view the web
In a screen of only
A few inches wide
Kids spend most their time
Sending text messages
To their friends
They have invented a
Whole new language
An abbreviated English
People usually spend

More money on their cell phones
Than on their computers
There are even games
For these tiny screens
The next generation
Is not content to wait
Until they get home
To work on their computers
They want to be in touch
At any time of the day
No matter what they are doing
It is common for people
To use cell phones
While driving in cars
They even take cell phone
On family vacations
And use them as babysitters

Musical Addictions

People now buy computers
Just for music
They spend as much
On their computer
As on their iPods
These devices hold
Tens of thousand of songs
They hold so many songs
That they can be listened to
For years without hearing
Any song twice
Kids can't imagine
What they would do
Without access to music
Even while at school
Or adults while
They are at work
People are now buying
All their music online
They no longer
Buy entire albums

Or even put them
On audio CDs
They float around
On the Internet for free
But you can be
Sent to prison or fined
Big money for stealing
People even want to exercise
While listening to music
They expect to be able to
Run down the street
Without being able to
Hear cars coming

3.4.2 Psychology of Fashion

Originality and Conformity

Our ticket to success
Is by how well we fit in
No one likes an
Independent thinker
Or someone who is creative
In what clothing they wear
People will pay more
For someone's name
On their clothing
We wear the brand names
As a symbol of pride
To get a famous athlete
Or clothing they wear
With their name on it
Is much better than
The same shirt with
No brand name written on it
Our conformity to fashion
Is a way to appear
More wealthy than others
We live in trashy
Homes or apartments
But won't be caught dead

With a knock off
Shoes are more expensive
Than an entire outfit
It does not matter
Anymore what you can do
But rather how you look
Women spend big money
To paint their faces
And color their hair
You would think they
Looked like zombies
Without all this makeup
Even models wear
Big money on their faces
Jewelry is considered better
If the stones are flawed
Lives are destroyed
So that fiancées
Can all have real diamonds
When you could produce
A more perfect one in a lab

Independence and Conformity

The younger generation
Always wants to stand out
And express their individuality
But they express this
All in the same way
Kids paint their finger nails
Black and dye their hair
Bright artificial colors and even
Put holes in their bodies
And ink on their skin
All so they can show
Their parents that they stand out
They crave independence
From their elders
But give in to peer pressure
They will do anything to
Prove their parents wrong

But at the cost of real freedom
There is always a new drug
That seems to offer a perfect high
But then kids get killed
Or addicted and their minds destroyed
Escaping reality is so important
That they rather die many years sooner
Than live a healthy life
Young women smoke cigarettes
To lose weight when they would lose
Just as much by walking only a mile

Perfect Man - Perfect Wedding

Every women is indoctrinated
From as early as childhood
That they are a princess
And they will marry a prince
They plan their weddings
Before they go on their first date
Women are so obsessed
With the popularity and status
Of who they date
That they end up with someone
Who only want to watch football
And has no time for them
They look for the fixer upper
And the guy who acts cool
Over the sweet one
Who would really be dedicated
My generation has given up
On even the idea of marriage
It is this idea that
Just because I have never met
A man worth marrying
There must be no good men
The way to find a spouse
Is to keep high standards
On being willing to be alone
Rather than enter a failed marriage
To find the perfect date

Be the perfect date
Don't be obsessed with impressing
Each other but be genuinely kind
Really think about the other person
And try to make their lives better
Give of yourself and give it time
You will not be disappointed

3.4.3 Society and Fashion

Competition

In a capitalist society
We are all rich
When we live in the
Colonial power's homeland
The old rich
And the new rich
Love to try to outdo each other
But the same struggle work its way
Down to every class
Kids have their own status symbols
Women have different one's than men
Men compete by speaking the
Common language of American football
And women compete
In shopping and clothing
Kids are like little versions
Of their parents
The rich girls like the jocks
No one really outgrows high school
People don't mature much
Past when they come of age
Men live their struggles
Through loyalty to different teams
And women try to outdo each other
In whatever the stars are wearing
If we spent our money
On those in need
Rather than on luxuries
The money would be used

Much more efficiently

Hollywood

Hollywood is corporate culture
They are our idols
And they are our symbols
They are known worldwide
People love to complain
About how rich they are
But we keep wanting
To see them in movies
And to hear about them
In the media
They push the limits
On sexuality and violence
A real fantasy world
Invented by the corporations
To sell more products
They are not any different
Than us except for the cash
The young people
Get their lives destroyed
By drug addiction
And party away their youth
They want to be mothers
But they don't let their kids
See their movies
The men get older and older
And the women like them
More and more
But the women are thrown
Out at middle age
Maybe if we had movies
With actual stories
They wouldn't need the women
To be so young

3.4.4 Affections

From Psalms

Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust. O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee; But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight. Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips. The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage. I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

62

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also

⁶²Psalms 16

from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

63

Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth. I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked. I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O Lord: That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth. Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men: In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes. But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me. My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the Lord.

64

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.

65

⁶³Psalm 19:8-14

⁶⁴Psalm 26

⁶⁵Psalm 27:4

As the hart panteth after the water brooks,
so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul
thirsteth for God, for the living God: when
shall I come and appear before God? My tears
have been my meat day and night, while they
continually say unto me, Where is thy God? When
I remember these things, I pour out my soul in
me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went
with them to the house of God, with the voice
of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept
holoday. Why art thou cast down, O my soul?
and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou
in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of
his countenance.

66

O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and
my sins are not hid from thee. Let not them
that wait on thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed
for my sake: let not those that seek thee be
confounded for my sake, O God of Israel. Be-
cause for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame
hath covered my face. I am become a stranger
unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's
children. For the zeal of thine house hath eaten
me up; and the reproaches of them that re-
proached thee are fallen upon me. When I wept,
and chastened my soul with fasting, that was
to my reproach. I made sackcloth also my gar-
ment; and I became a proverb to them.

67

For I was envious at the foolish, when I
saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are
no bands in their death: but their strength is
firm. They are not in trouble as other men; nei-
ther are they plagued like other men. There-
fore pride compasseth them about as a chain;

⁶⁶Psalm 42:1-5

⁶⁷Psalm 69:5-11

violence covereth them as a garment. Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image. Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins. So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee. Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

68

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

69

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

70

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. With my lips

⁶⁸Psalm 73:2-28

⁶⁹Psalm 84:5-12

⁷⁰Psalm 91:14-16

have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.
I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies,
as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy
precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will
delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget
thy word.

71

Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I
may live, and keep thy word. Open thou mine
eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of
thy law. I am a stranger in the earth: hide not
thy commandments from me. My soul breaketh
for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments
at all times. Thou hast rebuked the proud that
are cursed, which do err from thy command-
ments. Remove from me reproach and con-
tempt; for I have kept thy testimonies. Princes
also did sit and speak against me: but thy ser-
vant did meditate in thy statutes. Thy testi-
monies also are my delight and my counsellors.

72

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all
the day. Thou through thy commandments hast
made me wiser than mine enemies: for they
are ever with me. I have more understanding
than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are
my meditation. I understand more than the
ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have
refrained my feet from every evil way, that I
might keep thy word. I have not departed from
thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How
sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter
than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts
I get understanding: therefore I hate every
false way.

⁷¹Psalm 119:9-16

⁷²Psalm 119:17-24

73

Righteous art thou, O Lord, and upright
are thy judgments. Thy testimonies that thou
hast commanded are righteous and very faith-
ful. My zeal hath consumed me, because mine
enemies have forgotten thy words. Thy word
is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it. I
am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy
precepts. Thy righteousness is an everlasting
righteousness, and thy law is the truth. Trou-
ble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet
thy commandments are my delights. The righ-
teousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give
me understanding, and I shall live.

74

Other Verses

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all
thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all
thy might.

75

Moreover, because I have set my affection to
the house of my God, I have of mine own proper
good, of gold and silver, which I have given to
the house of my God, over and above all that I
have prepared for the holy house,

76

And he that taketh not his cross, and fol-
loweth after me, is not worthy of me. He that
findeth his life shall lose it: and he that los-
eth his life for my sake shall find it. He that

⁷³Psalm 119:97-104

⁷⁴Psalm 119:137-144

⁷⁵Deuteronomy 6:5

⁷⁶1 Chronicles 29:3

receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

77

The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

78

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

79

Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all. For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth. And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the

⁷⁷Matthew 10:38-42

⁷⁸Mark 12:19-31

⁷⁹Romans 12:10

obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him. I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things.

80

And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.

81

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

82

For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: Nor

⁸⁰2 Cointhians 7:13-16

⁸¹Galatians 4:14-18

⁸²Colossians 3:1-4

of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

⁸³1 Thessalonian 2:3-11

Chapter 4

Unexpected

by Ben Huot

4.1 First Things

4.1.1 Logo



I should explain what the logo is meant to be representing. The guy is a pen, which is me, which comes from my first poem in Philosophy Core, called Creative Process, where I refer to myself as doing Tai Chi, with my pen being my body. The idea is based on "the pen is mightier than the sword" so I created "the Bible is mightier than the pen".

The Bible is shooting out flames because in Ephesians it talks about spiritual warfare and the Bible is the only armament that is offensive. (It means offensive instead of defensive. These are common terms used in combat. The sword is the only spiritual weapon. All the other armaments expressed in Ephesians are protective and defensive in nature like a shield, a helmet, a breastplate, etc.) The flames are meant as in James when it talks about being purified by fire or struggles with temptation in our lives. Isaiah also was purified by a live coal to his lips by a Seraphim. So the usage of fire is not evil or anything violent. Think of it as purifying.

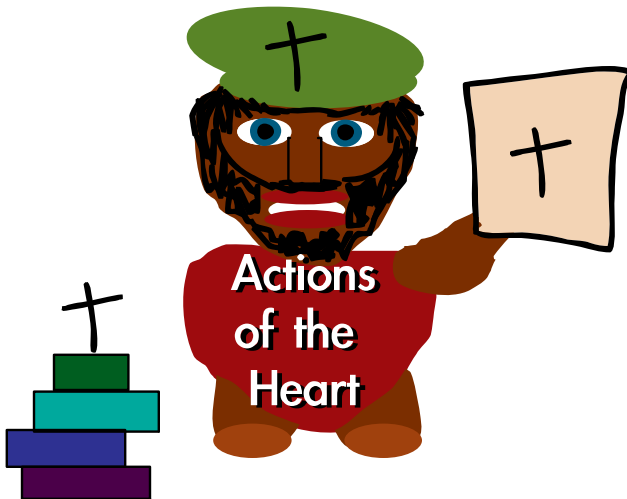
I would ideally like it to show the sword turned in-

ward to his chest, symbolizing like in many fantasy books that when they defeat the great evil force in the world, they are left with the greatest task, which is to defeat the evil within. The Bible is said to be a 2 sided sword, with the ability to cut between bone and marrow, and show the truth. Christ's tongue is said to be a 2 edged sword in Revelations, to defeat the Devil with. The reason I didn't show this is it looks like he is committing suicide.

The spiritual warfare is not against people, ideas, or even spirits. It is about fighting for the purity of our own minds. It is an internal thing. Like the Native American proverb "my greatest enemy is myself." This purity is in regard to our own sins and does not refer to purity in any other sense. But this is a process, not an outcome, as it is not possible for us to live without sin.

This warfare is only spiritual in the sense that it is not militant, social, economic, or political. This is for my own moral and ethical development and consists of practical qualities I try, with Christ's help, to cultivate like humility, compassion, kindness, and seriousness and do not correspond to anything supernatural.

4.1.2 Other Books



My text books and picture books contain most of my work over the past 10 years. These include my reading of some 235 books containing the philosophical and religious thinking of the worlds cultures for several thousand years and the application of the main themes of some of the major Old Testament Prophets and major works of the New Testament.

The main point of this work is to get people to stop-ping living their lives with their minds, but instead follow their hearts. I bring a radically different combination of viewpoints that you have not heard of before. I am not asking people to follow what I have written, but rather let the words stir up some sort of emotional response in your heart.

I challenge my readers to come up with their own unique ideas and that can lead the world in a new direction. We need a much broader diversity of ideas in our culture to deal with the problems we are facing in America and throughout the rest of the world.

4.1.3 For More Information

For more books and information, visit me on the web at <http://benjamin-newton.com/>

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at <mailto:ben@benjamin-newton.com> I even enjoy constructive criticism

4.1.4 Cover Graphic



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4.1.6 The Unexpected

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1

The Free Thinking Christian Series was the introduction to my philosophy and theology and my next 2 books, *Justice and Hope* and *Total Person and Society* are my forays into social science about the problems America and Europe have caused in the rest of the world. *Unexpected* is a look at some of the positive things about America that have occurred unexpectedly. It is based on the idea that for Americans to improve the rest of the world, they have to have something positive to draw from as it is not motivating to be constantly berated for what your ancestors and people in power you did not vote for have done. This book is not a retraction from what I have written earlier, but a different perspective on similar situations. It is based on Genesis, Deuteronomy, Job, the Gospels, Acts and Romans.

¹1 Corinthians 13:9-12

4.2 Questions

4.2.1 How Can I?

Negativity

How can I be happy
When so many suffer?
How can I be content
When so many
Don't have enough to eat?
How can I be optimistic
When the world is heading
In such a dangerous direction?
There is so much material
To draw from about
Bad things going on
There is so little
To get inspired about
I believe in Heaven
And that God will
Make things right in the end
I believe God is at work
And constantly intervenes
To make things better
We live in a world
Where we hear no positive news
Although we have been
On the edge of a holocaust
For over 50 years
God has held that back
We keep on hearing about
The problems we cause
For the rest of the world
It seems bourgeois
To have a good time
When we know our wealth
Comes at the expense
Of others lives

Only One Man

How can we have peace
When we are so depressed?
How can we be motivated
To make a difference
When there is no time
To enjoy life?
If we can't have peace
That we have done
All that we can
Then how can we keep
Trying to make the world better?
If we blame ourselves
For all the world's problems
How are we going to
Have the energy to
Make the needed changes?
What is a white man to do?
Where is the place for us?
People that look like me
Have caused immense suffering
And are more wealthy
Than millions of others combined
I am sorry for what
The white man has done
But I am doing all that I can
To undo these things
I do not have the resources
Or the money and influence
To change these things
I am mentally ill
And this takes a lot out of me
I put most of my time
Into finding ways to
Reduce suffering
But I am only one man
And I have little control
Even over my own mind

Surprises

Most people look forward
To a warm sunny day
But I enjoy the rain
And the clouds
The heat is unbearable
And there is no relief
It stays hot now
For half the year
I always get excited
About the fall season
Finally activities start again
And the year starts anew
The weather turns cool
And we have darker skies
I even like the rain
The coolness is refreshing
And there is more magic
In the cloudy skies
Than in the heat of summer
I look forward to Wednesdays
Because that is when
I get my spending money
Most people look forward
To the weekends
But the buses only come
Once every hour or less
On the weekends
And it is hard to
Get out anywhere
I think complex things
Unfold in unexpected ways
People were so afraid of
A nuclear holocaust
That there were many years
Of no world wars
We have an economy
Based on greed
And yet the altruist experiment
Communism was more repressive

No one thought people
Would use computers or the Internet
Outside of science and business
And now everything is available
On the world wide web
No body thought we would
Still be using cars
Or that we wouldn't be
On Mars by now
Or that Apple would
Outsell IBM
After it shrunk to
2% market-share
Or that an idea
Without an organization
Or a company behind it
That gave away
The software for free
Could be a challenge
To the largest software corporation
In these ways
What we fear today
Or what we nearly
Fail to see the importance of
May be our hope for tomorrow
Because everything is more complex
Than we fully realize

4.2.2 What If?

What if the Chinese didn't close down their fleet of ships after Zheng He's expeditions in the Ming Dynasty (about 1433 AD) ?

The Chinese had the largest wooden ships ever built and more than any European power at that time - and may have sailed as far as the New World, but they could not afford to anymore with other projects and wars related to conflicts with Mongolia, as they didn't sail in order to make money.

Buddhists Missionaries

Coming off ships
Brimming with canons
Loaded with gold
And human slaves
Along the Swahili coast
We have a new religion
Coming to Africa
From the Chinese
Buddhism is spreading
Westward into the jungles
Of central Africa
Buddhism wasn't very popular
At first until we were
Allowed to keep
Our old religions
We said we were happy
With our own gods
And didn't need theirs
But they told us
If we didn't follow them
We would come back again
As a monkey
Or end up this life
In a crate headed for China
To work the rice fields
We were told how compassionate
This guy called Buddha was
We asked why they didn't
Feed the hungry locals
They said we had to give up
Everything and be a monk
Most of us signed up
As we had nothing
Until we found out
We had to beg for food
Buddhism didn't sound like
Much of an improvement
Buddhism sounded like
A religion for the wealthy

The Chinese government
Said they were just here
For trade and to make us
More civilized
We thought that meant
We would get rich
But it seemed the longer
The Chinese were here
The poorer we became
The continued to make
Improvements in infrastructure
So the Buddhists could
Spread their religion
We have trains all over Africa
They get our natural resources
On ships headed to China
Faster that way
We found out that most
Of the officials weren't Buddhists
And that Buddhism wasn't
Really Chinese anyway
We were told that Buddhists
Were pacifists
Although we saw many
Chinese soldiers who were Buddhist

European Backwaters

No one cares about Europe
Why would they?
They are few in number
And they don't have any money
The Buddhists were active here
But the Christians outlawed them
As heretics and put them in prison
They were not a European religion
There are no empires in Europe
And the countries are all really small
The whole land mass
Is smaller than China
They don't have anything of worth

To trade or to sell
They don't make good slaves
They look like ghosts
They are the color of death
And they are dressed in rags
They don't have any navies of any size
We could conquer them easily
But they have nothing worth taking
They believe in one God
And most can't read
They have no common language
We still are not sure
Whether to classify them
As humans or not
They have no culture like ours
The few people who can read
Spend most of their days praying
They are obsessed with their classics
Some stuff written down
1, 000-2,000 years ago
By a small empire called Rome
And an even smaller one called Greece

What if we found another world that worshipped Jesus and was much more technologically advanced than us?

Christian World

People from another world
Who look a lot like us
And can speak our languages
Appear in a museum
Of ancient artifacts
They tell us about their God
And His name is Jesus Christ
And they came to our world
As missionaries because
Their world is all Christian
They have been traveling
From world to world

For hundreds of years
To spread the Gospel
Through inventions of
Their own designs
They live in a world
That is a thousand years
More advanced than ours
They can also travel
Through time and space
They have never seen
A world as corrupt
And as evil as ours
That hasn't destroyed itself
They live communally
And they have no crime
Their society has lasted
For thousands of years
Without conflicts
They want to help us
But they say the problem
Is not that we haven't
Advanced in technology enough
But that we need to
Improve ourselves morally
They have no environmental problems
And have never had any in their history
They treat animals as equals
And eat entirely vegetarian
They have hundreds of billions of people
On their world
And they are self-sufficient energy wise
Even though they their technology
Uses a lot of energy
Because they limit their use

What if Jesus came today?

Contemporary Jesus

If Jesus came today
He would be homeless

And hang out with
Strippers and escorts
He would be at the clubs
And at the political rallies
With anarchists and goths
He would be the son
Of a computer programmer
Who worked in a small business
Based on open source
His mother would be
An artist or designer
He would listen to reggae
And be vegetarian
He would live in a
Community house
With all possessions
Held in common
He would hand out flyers
For environmental causes
He would hang out
At poetry readings
And at Internet cafes
He would be a member
Of His local
Linux Users Group
And would use only
Open Source software
He would have served in Iraq
And in the Peace Corps
He would have
Started a new religion
And criticized the political elite
He would start a reform
Of the religious wrong
He would be a liberal
And speak out against
The conservative powers
People would follow Him
But not be able to explain why
The news would not film Him
And people would

Make fun of His followers
Pastors would say that
He was a heretic
They would ban Him
From church on Sunday
And the police would
Call Him an agitator
Bush would call Him
A terrorist leader
And He would be
Imprisoned without trial
He would be interrogated
And released to a mental hospital
He would form His own band
And He would have a blog
Where He would write poetry
With millions of monthly visitors

What if stuffed toys ran the world?

Toy Society

Children are prized above all
They are the friends
Of the powerful elite
The president's dump truck
Is pushed by a toddler
And the famous actors
Sign the diapers of their fans
The toy entrepreneurs
Load up the toy boxes
In their factories
And the children
Drive around the boxes
In battery operated
And joystick controlled
All terrain vehicles
The children go to play
At the toy research centers
To see what toys
Are the most popular

And for quality control
They are played with
Under supervision
Of the toy managers
To make sure they
Are safe for play
Day care for the toys
Is provided by toddlers
And teams of seamstresses
Are trained to be
The top surgeons
Of the toy leaders
Each toy is treasured
For its entire life
The toy gets a new
Assigned kid to look after
When the previous kid
Begins to grow up
No toys are ever given
To animals to martyr
There is always
A loving home
For every toy
They will always be warm
And kept clean and dry
There are always activities
To keep the toys busy
They have a great Christmas party
Where they meet new kids
And a holiday parade
Where all the toy stars
Are dressed up and honored
There are award ceremonies
For the kid's favorite
Toys of the year
When the kids grow up
They are used as heaters

What if farm animals ran the world?

Farm Society

The cows roam free
All over the midwest
Milk, cheese, and ice cream
Are free for every child
No animals are in prison
And they all have
Their own barns
With heated blankets
And human employees
To clean away the cow pies
Half the nation's wealth
Is in grain, crackers, and alfalfa
The currency is sugar
And no one eats meat
The pigs are the police
And everyone caught
Eating an animal's flesh
Is sent across the border
The sheep clear the
Wildflowers and weeds
So the human workers
Can plant the corn and wheat
For their cow leaders
All the extra paper
From all the books
Not recorded in farm animal
Languages are recycled
With the help of the goats
There is plenty of power
To run the mills
From all the cow pies
Cows are assigned
To each residential block
To keep the grass cut
There is no more
Need for cars
Nothing too small
To carry a cow
Is licensed to drive

There are new uses
For all the SUVs
They are all powered
By sugar cane
Left over from cow deserts

4.3 High School

4.3.1 Model United Nations

Conferences galore
Each school represents
A different country
Committees for human rights
Economic development
And the containment
Of nuclear weapons
A year of research
Comes down to a couple days
Of role playing
We overtook the campus
Of the college we met at
And all the conference rooms
Were booked for us
We wrote resolutions
Mostly serious
And they were kept
In effect for several years
We created books about
The countries we represented
We got off a few days
From our regular classes
Even the smallest island nations
Were represented
And there was great competition
For permanent members
Of the security council
One year I lead a committee
And I was president
Of our school club

We had a class devoted to
Preparation for the conference

4.3.2 Speech Team

A different speech
For every competition
A class to prepare
Quizzes on newspapers
Every week
I did as wide a variety
Of speeches as possible
I bombed at debate
And my persuasive speech
Didn't score high
I was embarrassed
With my impromptu speeches
I finally switched to
Interpretive readings
And enjoyed that much more
I didn't practice enough
To win any awards
But I enjoyed going
To different colleges
In the state
And seeing their campuses
And seeing people
From all over the state
We got to miss school
Stay in hotels, eat out
And go shopping

4.3.3 Political Action Committee

I started my own political club
After attending a Ross Perot
Local meeting group
I got to shake his hand
At a gathering in town
The club became non-partisan
Although they were

Mostly conservatives
I did most of the work
I made deserts to attract people
To the meetings
Which were during a school break
We went on a field trip
To Portland to hear
A former Major of New York
And a former US Secretary of Labor
My advisor was the health teacher
He was retiring soon
So he wasn't afraid of
Getting in trouble
With the administration
We sponsored a candidate
For school elections
And I kept detailed newsletters
About everything we had done

4.3.4 Cross Country

I started running
Because my dad told me
I had to do a sport
And this was the only sport
That they didn't cut
People off of the team
I started out barely
Able to run 3 miles
And was able to easily
Run 10 miles after
I graduated from high school
I remember going all over
The state for competitions
We ran along the beach
We ran in a marsh
We ran through forests
We ran in a reservoir
We ran at parks and at schools
We ran 3k and 5ks
We ran on the sidewalk

We ran around the track
We ran on bark
We ran 400 m laps
We ran 1 mile laps
We ran up hill
We did push-ups
We did sit-ups
We ran in the rain
And in the snow
I eventually began to like it

4.3.5 Cheerleading

My sophomore year
They were holding tryouts
In the spring season
And they were recruiting men
I tried out because I wanted
To try another sport
And I didn't know how hard it was
Once I starting trying to
Learn the dances and cheers
I figured I had no chance
But to my surprise
No other guy signed up
And they kept me
I was Spirit Man
And I was even on
The varsity team
The practices were 3 hours
Every day of the week
I had to buy a uniform
They soon realized I
Couldn't do the dances
So they let me off easy
We cheered at all the games
Both football and basketball
Our team went to state that year
And the crowds liked having me
I was invited back the next year
But I focused on running

And getting in shape
For the Army

4.4 Improvements

4.4.1 Computers

Painter

Most people paint on canvas
Instead of on the computer
But for many like myself
We cannot tolerate
Being around turpentine
Or other harsh chemicals
And so we would never be
Able to do oil painting
If there were not a program
That helped in this feat
Painter not only allows
A person to paint
In many different styles
But it also has
Hundreds of brushes
The pigments interact
With each other naturally
You can use a digital pen
To draw with
And you can even
Turn photos into
Painting with natural
Looking strokes
There is no other program
That is like it

LaTeX

LaTeX is based on the idea
Of structured documents
Document structure is an
Abstract concept

That people are familiar with
Although not with the name
How do you know
When a chapter begins
Or what is an index?
There is no set form
For any of these
Structural elements
You know in part
What it is based on intuition
The other aspect of
Understanding structure
Is consistent style
While there may be
Limitless variety in how
New chapters are marked
Or how we display an index
We can recognize it in part
Due to consistent design
Of every individual
Occurrence of each element
LaTeX allows you to
Mark where a chapter begins
Or what the title is
And it does the actual layout
For you by itself
You can modify any aspect
But no matter what style you use
Each chapter will look the same
You can easily transform
The document into
Many different uses
Like e-books, web pages,
And for printing on the press

Print on Demand

Print on demand
Is a very recent advance
In printing technology
That has revolutionized

How books are produced
Before print on demand
When you wanted to
Publish a book
Or put your logo
On a t-shirt or mug
You had to specify the
Quantity before it was printed
As it would cost too much
To print out individually
In fact, your price went
Down per item
The more you ordered
And then you had to
Have somewhere to store
The finished products
Print on demand is
Entirely different
Each book is printed
Or your logo stamped
Onto a t-shirt
One at a time
And there is no
Minimum order or
Any fees for warehousing
And as a side effect
You get to keep
Your copyright
Even after being published

Social Networking

Social networking
Allows different people
To form communities
On the Internet
And share their creations
Or their ideas
With each other
In a common environment
With ground rules

And most are supported
Entirely by ads
Basically, the advantage
To the host is that
They get free content
And the advantage to
The individual poster
Is their content is
Hosted for free
These communities
Are a collection of web pages
That are easily designable
Because they are based
On common templates
That are customizable
So they work the same
And the content producers
Don't have to design from scratch
There are social networks
For kids, college students,
Authors, book lists, music, videos
And even bookmarks
They are also great ways
To advertise products
And meet new people
Or keep in touch with friends

4.4.2 Ralph Nader

Vision

I was discouraged
For a long time
About working through the system
To affect the
Betterment of humanity
So little had been done
Through law and science
That I had believed
That the only route
For substantial change

And the method for
Making a dent in
Human and animal suffering
Was by God's direct intervention
That science was
Part of the problem
And the legal system
Was corrupt beyond repair
But then I saw a movie
About a man I voted for
And admired him
For the party he ran under
I was blown away by all
This one man has affected
And how many others
Were affected by his vision
Part one man crusader
But with an army
Of foot soldier activists
He got passed almost
Every consumer safety,
Environmental and humanitarian
Law that has helped curb
The tide against the
Excesses of corporate America

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Thank God for Nader
We have a safer workplace
Because of him
We have protection
From being caught in machinery
There are limits on
What concentration of toxic chemicals
We are exposed to
We have protective equipment
Like goggles, face shields, and ear plugs
Power is cut off
Before making adjustments or repairs
To moving machinery

When working in enclosed areas
Like tanks, manholes, pits, and bins
There is enough air
And workers are checked on
Now we know what chemicals
And what infectious diseases
We are being exposed to
Miners are protected
From cave ins
Clean up of accidental releases
Of chemicals that are
Toxic, reactive or flammable
Are managed safely
He helped prevent
Repetitive stress injuries
He brought justice
For those who died
Because of manager negligence
All this happened
Because of him

Consumer Product Safety Commission

Alcohol, tobacco, and firearms
Automobiles, and food and drugs
Are regulated by the government
But what about everything else?
That is what the
Consumer Product Safety Commission does
Thank God for Ralph Nader
Its mission is to protect
Against unreasonable risk of injury
Its weapons are developing standards
Banning unsafe products
Recalling products already purchased
Researching possible problems with
Various consumer products
There is a phone number and website
For consumers to report problems
And they collect statistics
On injuries suffered by

Emergency room patients
Related to consumer products
All this happened
Because of him

Freedom of Information Act

Thank God for Ralph Nader
Did you know that you
Could ask the federal
Government for information
And that they are required
By law to send it to you?
As long as it is not classified
Or is part of our defense
Or national security
Or confidential information
Which would violate someone's
Personal privacy like medical records
And you have to be a US citizen
You can check the FBI web pages
And they release information all the time
Most of the information on UFOs
Came from this law
This law helps keep information
That doesn't need to be kept secret
For our safety from giving the feds
Too much power over us
It is just another way to limit
The power of government
And make it more accountable
To its tax payers
All this happened
Because of him

Environmental Protection Agency

We take the fact
That the government
Helps protect the environment
As something that we can depend on

But it was not always that way
Thank God for Ralph Nader
The government has an
Agency of 17, 000 people
Composed of engineers, scientists,
And environmental protection specialists
Lawyers, PR people, accountants,
And computer experts
The main areas of work done
Are assessment, research, and education
It sets and enforces many
Environmental laws along with
State and federal agencies
It also lets some of the responsibilities
For permits, monitoring and enforcement
Fall on the shoulders of other
State and federal agencies
Some of the things the EPA has helped with
Include a Energy Star,
A voluntary program for
Reducing the energy consumption
Of appliances and computers
They rate the fuel economy of cars
Based on how much they pollute
They test the concentration of air pollution
They outlawed the chemical DDT
Which killed off wildlife
They regulate the release of the
Toxic heavy metal mercury
All this happened
Because of him

Safe Drinking Water Act

The Safe Drinking Water Act
Ensures that all Americans
Have access to water that is
Safe to drink
Thank God for Ralph Nader
They limit the amount
Of toxic chemicals

That can be present in our
Drinking water
And even tougher goals
Which allow money to
Be taken from abusers
To clean up pollution with
None of the toxic heavy metal
Lead is allowed in water pipes
People who report violations
Are protected from retaliation
All communities must
Publish reports of water quality
Every year
New drinking water standards
Must be evaluated by how
Much they cost in relation to
Their expected benefits
States are given federal money
To clean up or monitor
Their local water sources
Drinking water is to be free
Of both infectious diseases
As well as toxic cleaning agents
Used to kill off harmful
Micro organisms
Water system operators
Must be certified to make sure
They keep the water safe
Information is released to the public
About what chemicals are in the water
Where their water originates
How it is cleaned
And how a private citizen
Can help keep it clean
Small water systems
Are given extra federal funds
To comply with the drinking water act
All this happened
Because of him

4.5 Blessings from the Bible

4.5.1 Spiritual Blessings

Old Testament

The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

2

And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.

3

And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

4

And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation. There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions

²Exodus 15:2

³Exodus 31:3-5

⁴Exodus 33:19

are weighed. The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength. They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble. The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them. He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail. The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the Lord shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

5

This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength. So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved. And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

⁵1 Samuel 2:1-10

6

Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations,
and declare it in the isles afar off, and say,
He that scattered Israel will gather him, and
keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock. For the
Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him
from the hand of him that was stronger than
he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the
height of Zion, and shall flow together to the
goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine,
and for oil, and for the young of the flock and
of the herd: and their soul shall be as a wa-
tered garden; and they shall not sorrow any
more at all. Then shall the virgin rejoice in the
dance, both young men and old together: for I
will turn their mourning into joy, and will com-
fort them, and make them rejoice from their
sorrow. And I will satiate the soul of the priests
with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied
with my goodness, saith the Lord.

7

Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he
hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smit-
ten, and he will bind us up. After two days will
he revive us: in the third day he will raise us
up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall
we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his
going forth is prepared as the morning; and he
shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter
and former rain unto the earth.

8

I will heal their backsliding, I will love them
freely: for mine anger is turned away from
him. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall

⁶Nehemiah 8:9b-12

⁷Jeremiah 31:10-14

⁸Hosea 6:1-3

grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon. Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found. Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

9

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

10

New Testament

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man

⁹Hosea 14:4-9

¹⁰Habakkuk 3:17-19

sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

11

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest

¹¹John 1:1-14

keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

12

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed,

¹²John 17:9-26

but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

13

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

14

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

15

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through

¹³2 Corinthians 1:8

¹⁴Ephesians 3:17-21

¹⁵Philippians 1:6

Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

16

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and

¹⁶Philippians 4:6-9

be not moved away from the hope of the gospel,
which ye have heard, and which was preached
to every creature which is under heaven

17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from
above, and cometh down from the Father of
lights, with whom is no variableness, neither
shadow of turning.

18

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Je-
sus Christ, which according to his abundant
mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively
hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from
the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and
undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved
in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power
of God through faith unto salvation ready to be
revealed in the last time.

19

4.5.2 Temporal Blessings

Genesis

So God created man in his own image, in
the image of God created he him; male and fe-
male created he them. And God blessed them,
and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and mul-
tiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:
and have dominion over the fish of the sea,
and over the fowl of the air, and over every
living thing that moveth upon the earth. And
God said, Behold, I have given you every herb
bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the

¹⁷Colossians 1:12-23

¹⁸James 1:17

¹⁹1 Peter 1:3-5

earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

20

And God spake unto Noah, saying, Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth. And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark. And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

21

And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by

²⁰Genesis 1:27-30

²¹Genesis 8:15-22

the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

22

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

23

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord

²²Genesis 9:11-16

²³Genesis 22:15-18

stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

24

Deuteronomy

For the Lord thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the Lord thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

25

But as for thee, stand thou here by me, and I will speak unto thee all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which thou shalt teach them, that they may do them in the land which I give them to possess it. Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

²⁴Genesis 28:12-15

²⁵Deuteronomy 2:7

26

That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

27

²⁶Deuteronomy 5:31-33

²⁷Deuteronomy 6:2-12

Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them. Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the Lord thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers: And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee. Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle. And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee. And thou shalt consume all the people which the Lord thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that will be a snare unto thee.

28

And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey. For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs: But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year

²⁸Deuteronomy 7:11-16

even unto the end of the year. And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the Lord's wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the Lord giveth you. Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth. For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him; Then will the Lord drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves. Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be. There

shall no man be able to stand before you: for the Lord your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you. Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

29

At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release. And this is the manner of the release: Every creditor that lendeth ought unto his neighbour shall release it; he shall not exact it of his neighbour, or of his brother; because it is called the Lord's release. Of a foreigner thou mayest exact it again: but that which is thine with thy brother thine hand shall release; Save when there shall be no poor among you; for the Lord shall greatly bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it: Only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all these commandments which I command thee this day. For the Lord thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee; and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee. If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt

²⁹Deuteronomy 11:9-28

surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth. Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the Lord against thee, and it be sin unto thee. Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto. For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

30

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all

³⁰Deuteronomy 15:1-11

that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee. And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers to give thee. The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

31

When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. For the Lord's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh

³¹Deuteronomy 28:1-14

them, beareth them on her wings: So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him. He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock; Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.

32

Job

Call now, if there be any that will answer thee; and to which of the saints wilt thou turn? For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one. I have seen the foolish taking root: but suddenly I cursed his habitation. His children are far from safety, and they are crushed in the gate, neither is there any to deliver them. Whose harvest the hungry eateth up, and taketh it even out of the thorns, and the robber swalloweth up their substance. Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward. I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number: Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth waters upon the fields: To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety. He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise. He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong. They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope in

³²Deuteronomy 32:8-14

the noonday as in the night. But he saveth the poor from the sword, from their mouth, and from the hand of the mighty. So the poor hath hope, and iniquity stoppeth her mouth. Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole. He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee. In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword. Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh. At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth. For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee. And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle shall be in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin. Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth. Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season. Lo this, we have searched it, so it is; hear it, and know thou it for thy good.

33

Which said unto God, Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them? Yet he filled their houses with good things: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. The righteous see it, and are glad: and the innocent laugh them to scorn. Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumeth. Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee. Receive, I pray thee, the law from his

³³Job 5

mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart. If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles. Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks. Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver. For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God. Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows. Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways. When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person. He shall deliver the island of the innocent: and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands.

34

God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend. For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength. He sealeth up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work. Then the beasts go into dens, and remain in their places. Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north. By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened. Also by watering he wearieth the thick cloud: he scattereth his bright cloud: And it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them upon the face of the world in the earth. He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy. Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God. Dost thou know

³⁴Job 22:17-30

when God disposed them, and caused the light of his cloud to shine? Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge? How thy garments are warm, when he quieteth the earth by the south wind? Hast thou with him spread out the sky, which is strong, and as a molten looking glass? Teach us what we shall say unto him; for we cannot order our speech by reason of darkness. Shall it be told him that I speak? if a man speak, surely he shall be swallowed up. And now men see not the bright light which is in the clouds: but the wind passeth, and cleanseth them. Fair weather cometh out of the north: with God is terrible majesty. Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict. Men do therefore fear him: he respecteth not any that are wise of heart.

35

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, And brake up for

³⁵Job 37:5-24

it my decreed place, and set bars and doors,
And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no
further: and here shall thy proud waves be
stayed? Hast thou commanded the morning
since thy days; and caused the dayspring to
know his place; That it might take hold of the
ends of the earth, that the wicked might be
shaken out of it? It is turned as clay to the
seal; and they stand as a garment. And from
the wicked their light is withholden, and the
high arm shall be broken. Hast thou entered
into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked
in the search of the depth? Have the gates of
death been opened unto thee? or hast thou
seen the doors of the shadow of death? Hast
thou perceived the breadth of the earth? de-
clare if thou knowest it all. Where is the way
where light dwelleth? and as for darkness,
where is the place thereof, That thou shouldest
take it to the bound thereof, and that thou
shouldest know the paths to the house thereof? Know-
est thou it, because thou wast then born? or
because the number of thy days is great? Hast
thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or
hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, Which
I have reserved against the time of trouble,
against the day of battle and war? By what
way is the light parted, which scattereth the
east wind upon the earth? Who hath divided
a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or
a way for the lightning of thunder; To cause
it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on
the wilderness, wherein there is no man; To
satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and
to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring
forth? Hath the rain a father? or who hath be-
gotten the drops of dew? Out of whose womb
came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven,
who hath gendered it? The waters are hid as
with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. Canst
thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or

loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth? Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are? Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart? Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven, When the dust groweth into hardness, and the clods cleave fast together? Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions, When they couch in their dens, and abide in the covert to lie in wait? Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

36

Other Old Testament

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.

37

Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the Lord your God. Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and

³⁶Job 38

³⁷Exodus 15:26

reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord. If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land. And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.

38

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant

³⁸Leviticus 26:1-9

commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

39

And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the Lord, which was at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it. In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead. Now, O Lord God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great? And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had

³⁹Joshua 1:3-9

that have been before thee, neither shall there
any after thee have the like.

40

4.6 Faith and Confidence

4.6.1 Gospels

While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live. And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples. And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

41

Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into

⁴⁰2 Chronicles 1:6-12

⁴¹Matthew 9:18-22

the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

42

And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them? And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast

⁴²Matthew 21:19-22

him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

43

And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

44

And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which

⁴³Mark 9:16-29

⁴⁴Mark 11:20-26

had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

45

And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd. And

⁴⁵Luke 7:36-50

Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

46

And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

47

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not

⁴⁶Luke 8:43-48

⁴⁷Luke 17:5-10

to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

48

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was. Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Juda again. His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again? Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him. These

⁴⁸Luke 18:1-8

things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him. Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him. Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already. Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off: And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house. Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

4.6.2 Acts

And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

50

At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom

⁵⁰Acts 13:44-52

thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

51

4.6.3 Romans

For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

52

⁵¹Acts 26:13-18

⁵²Romans 1:11-17

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

53

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which

⁵³Romans 4:16-25

is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

54

The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

⁵⁴Romans 5:1-11

55

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

56

4.6.4 Other Letters

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known

⁵⁵Romans 6:8-15

⁵⁶Romans 15:13-16

it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

57

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having

⁵⁷1 Corinthians 2:1-16

on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

58

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in

⁵⁸Ephesians 6:10-20

heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister

59

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

60

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith,

⁵⁹Colossians 1:12-23

⁶⁰1 Thessalonians 5:1-10

love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting.

61

⁶¹1 Timothy 6:11-16

Chapter 5

Faith and Creativity in Education

by Ben Huot

5.1 First Things

5.1.1 Logo



I should explain what the logo is meant to be representing. The guy is a pen, which is me, which comes from my first poem in Philosophy Core, called Creative Process, where I refer to myself as doing Tai Chi, with my pen being my body. The idea is based on "the pen is mightier than the sword" so I created "the Bible is mightier than the pen".

The Bible is shooting out flames because in Ephesians it talks about spiritual warfare and the Bible is the only armament that is offensive. (It means offensive instead of defensive. These are common terms used in combat. The sword is the only spiritual weapon. All the other armaments expressed in Ephesians are protective and defensive in nature like a shield, a helmet, a breastplate, etc.) The flames are meant as in James when it talks about being purified by fire or struggles with temptation in our lives. Isaiah also was purified by a live coal to his lips by a Seraphim. So the usage of fire is not evil or anything violent. Think of it as purifying.

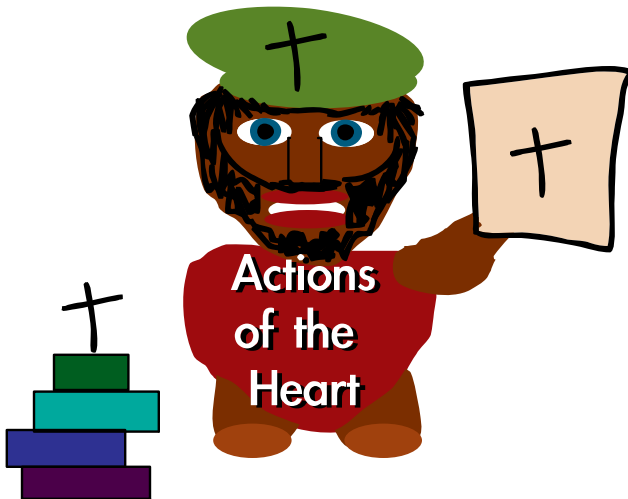
I would ideally like it to show the sword turned in-

ward to his chest, symbolizing like in many fantasy books that when they defeat the great evil force in the world, they are left with the greatest task, which is to defeat the evil within. The Bible is said to be a 2 sided sword, with the ability to cut between bone and marrow, and show the truth. Christ's tongue is said to be a 2 edged sword in Revelations, to defeat the Devil with. The reason I didn't show this is it looks like he is committing suicide.

The spiritual warfare is not against people, ideas, or even spirits. It is about fighting for the purity of our own minds. It is an internal thing. Like the Native American proverb "my greatest enemy is myself." This purity is in regard to our own sins and does not refer to purity in any other sense. But this is a process, not an outcome, as it is not possible for us to live without sin.

This warfare is only spiritual in the sense that it is not militant, social, economic, or political. This is for my own moral and ethical development and consists of practical qualities I try, with Christ's help, to cultivate like humility, compassion, kindness, and seriousness and do not correspond to anything supernatural.

5.1.2 Other Books



My text books and picture books contain most of my work over the past 10 years. These include my reading of some 235 books containing the philosophical and religious thinking of the worlds cultures for several thousand years and the application of the main themes of some of the major Old Testament Prophets and major works of the New Testament.

The main point of this work is to get people to stop-ping living their lives with their minds, but instead follow their hearts. I bring a radically different combination of viewpoints that you have not heard of before. I am not asking people to follow what I have written, but rather let the words stir up some sort of emotional response in your heart.

I challenge my readers to come up with their own unique ideas and that can lead the world in a new direction. We need a much broader diversity of ideas in our culture to deal with the problems we are facing in America and throughout the rest of the world.

5.1.3 For More Information

For more books and information, visit me on the web at <http://benjamin-newton.com/>

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at <mailto:ben@benjamin-newton.com> I even enjoy constructive criticism

5.1.4 Cover Graphic



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5.1.6 Introduction

This book is about education in America. The problems with education today are simple. In an effort to not mix religion with government, we have ended up just penalizing Christianity and let Science and Paganism take over the curriculum.

I am tired of Christianity being bashed by intellectuals without being challenged, so I have chosen to deconstruct Science. We think that Science is unbiased and is a balanced interpreter of truth, but really it gives only a very narrow perspective on life. Science is an ideology as much as religions are. It is not the solution to our problems, and is likely the cause of many.

I have shown that in taking religion out of our education, that we have left out creativity as well. As with my other books, I have shown how another duality exists - that religion and creativity are intertwined. This is not about pushing Christianity alone on the schools, but rather not excluding curriculum just because it is religious in nature. The idea is to spread multiculturalism and the humanities in schools, so that we might have a more balanced curriculum.

We have much to learn from the ancients and non-white cultures, if we would only listen.

5.2 On the Offense

5.2.1 Striking Back

What is Rational?

What is the definition of rational?
Believing that man is the highest good
Or that his intellect can grasp everything
Do you think you can disprove God
By quoting a famous atheist?
You win an argument
But just show your own limitations
And your own weak intellect
Not everything is meant to be
Analyzed in the Scientific method
What cannot be disproved
Is greater than that which can be proven
Guess and check can only go so far
And scientists are as bigoted
And resistant to change and new ideas
Than as are any other bureaucrats
The ideas of Science may have
At one time been an area for non-conformists
But it is no longer
Everyone believes in Science
And that is a great weakness
The masses can be convinced of anything
Scientists fail to realize
That it was their community that
Made a fool of Galileo
The first scientist was a smart ass
When your belief system
Can only understand matter-energy
Aren't you smart enough
To realize that it cannot explain
Anything important
It is not wrong to have a theory
To explain something
But when you use it as an excuse
To hide from spiritual realities

Who is the greater fool?
It doesn't matter how good you are at debate
Or how many facts you have on your side
Some things just don't make sense
Just because the entire Scientific establishment
Believes in one thing, the masses think it is
true
No matter how many times
Society confuses facts with truth
The number of believers is growing worldwide
It is interesting that those who think
They are so enlightened
As to be better informed than God
And think that they are the enemy of the es-
tablishment
That their ideas resonate best with
The people who create the problems
They are trying to fix
If the same system that said the world is flat
Now even admits they cannot observe
95% of the mass of the universe
Why should I believe them about evolution?
For a community that shuns innovators
And anything unusual or different
And is mainly motivated by prestige
Why would I believe anything
They print in numbers
And collect evidence for?
If scientists would study other philosophies
They would start to realize that the world
Is much bigger than Science
And that the real problems in life
Are not going to be solved by more technology
That we are never going to resolve
The true cause of suffering through education
That the innovation that will bring solutions
Is something that was written down 2,000 years
ago
That the most unusual ideas were some of the
oldest
That we are just re-inventing what China

Designed thousands of years ago
Without the Scientific method
If the Chinese were not smart enough
To keep the empire going
How are we going to be able to survive
A few more generations of Science?
One of the big problems with Science
Is it has no ethical foundation
Just as you cannot add security onto technology
Not designed with a firm foundation
Ethics are not just an add on
People do not become ethical by
Attending a one semester course
Or even after earning a Ph.D. in philosophy
It is not that we do not know enough
To do find a solution to our problems
But that we need a way to stop
Ourselves from creating more problems
Self control is the key to our survival
But the solution is not an invention
But supernatural intervention

Where Blame is Due

If Christianity is to blame for everything
People claim it is
Then why is there so much more evil
Done by countries which are primarily atheist?
Before jumping on the bandwagon
And blaming every problem on Christianity
People should actually read what the Bible
says
The Bible never says it is ok to mistreat animals
Augustine and Thomas Aquinas hated animals
But their theology is based more on Greek paganism
Than it is on any possible interpretation
Of the Bible come up with by the biggest idiot
The Bible holds humans responsible for taking
care

Of the entire ecosystem
Not only are we responsible for what we have
done
But we must correct any problems no matter
How they were caused
Unlike what the religious wrong say
The Bible states very clearly in several places
That there is no distinction between man and
woman
Or peoples of any race or any other background
Contrary to popular belief, the Bible does not
say
That corporations should control the govern-
ment
Or that the wealthy got that way because
They were following God's laws
The Bible says over and over and gives many
examples
Of moral people who loved God and suffered
terribly
Many times exactly because of it
Contrary to popular belief, claiming to be born
again
Does not get you to Heaven according to the
Bible
You have to humble yourself before God
And believe you are equal to your fellow man
Before you can be saved
According to the Bible, environmental destruc-
tion
And stealing from people's retirements are sins
And are greater than that of committing adul-
tery one time
Unlike what many people think
The Bible does not tell you everything to do
And is designed for there to be different inter-
pretations
Of many ideas in theology
Similar to Taoism, the theology of the Bible is
no-dualistic
Even though many Christians treat Paul's let-

ters
Like analytical arguments, they are really mystical
Unlike what many Christians believe
The Bible encourages study of other religions
and
Being intellectual by Paul's example alone
The religious ideas the Bible disparages come
from
Occult religions like Greek Paganism
Which has been synchronized with Christianity
By Augustine and Thomas Aquinas

God and Country

The religious wrong have long believed
That America was a Christian nation
What America really was and this includes
The religious wrong
Is founded on the idea of
Not wanting to pay taxes
The founding fathers were anarchists
So to follow in their foot steps
Would be to overthrow the current government
The United States has always been
An aggressive and violent nation
Something we inherited from the English
We thought we were better than
The rest of the world
It was our duty to spread our power
No matter what the cost
Following in the footsteps of the English
We held people as slaves even though
We claimed to be a democracy
We used biological weapons on the
Native Americans and dishonored treaties
These are not things a Christian nation would
do
They do not honor God
And they do not promote human dignity
Now the religious wrong want us to protect

Humans that are not even born
But thinks it is ok to torture baby animals
In their use for food and experiments
Both of which are unnecessary
They believe that monopolies/dictatorships are
good
And that our bill of rights is unimportant
They are against giving to charities
They instead want to tax the poor
And give it to the rich to make bigger weapons
with
They are using a couple of attacks worldwide
As an excuse to invade another nation
When it had no intention of attacking anyone
So our dictator could settle an old score
The American House of Bush
Loves to redefine worlds until they have no
meaning
They have over written every law against pol-
lution
So a couple rich white men can get even richer
He has held teachers responsible for how
Prepared the kids are for school without
Factoring in different socioeconomic conditions
Which will ultimately destroy the school sys-
tem
After doing all this our dictator has the audac-
ity
To claim he is a born again Christian
There is absolutely nothing Christian
About the way this creep acts

Medieval Morality

Enlightenment writers love to denigrate
The European Medieval period
By referring to it as the Dark Ages
Because they hated God so much
And they were enamored by material wealth
And advanced technology used in warfare
They blamed all their problems on God

Modern authors refer to the time
As being backwards and violent
What they really hate is that it was
A relative time of material poverty for Europe
After the fall of the Roman Empire
The entirety of Europe struggled to survive
But people don't see the bright side
Without the wealth to destroy others
And depending on the harvest for their food
People began to rely upon God
And had respect for God and nature
People still had evil in their hearts
But the scale of destruction was
Exponentially less than in "enlightened times"
In fact, although historians love to blame
Christianity for the big wars of the next 500
years
The Church was losing more and more power
As things began to be more and more violent
People saw Science as a way they could
One up God and avoid those inconvenient
Sexual and financial morals
See the main problem with Science is
That it has no formal ethics as part
Of its system of discovery
The superiority of philosophy
Is that it has an ethics
The superiority of religion
Is that is also has a reason
The superiority of Christianity
Is that is also gives a way

A Matter of Faith

Many people believe
That evolution should be
Accepted because
Most scientists believe it
They say it should just be
A matter of evidence
I believe it as a matter of faith

First of all, Science did not
Just arrive out of nowhere
And was not always
The way everything was decided
Neither are we more advanced
For relying on it for everything
Science was invented and came out
Of a particular western philosophical
School called the Enlightenment
Contrary to popular belief
Most technologies of the modern world
Were not invented by Europeans or
By their precious Science
They were dreamed up and produced
First by the Chinese
In fact, the Industrial Revolution
Came about from our discovery
Of Chinese technologies
Invented hundreds or even thousands
Of years earlier
There are many other methods
Of discovery and verification
Jainism has a number all by itself
The five senses, testimony, ESP,
telepathy, and an all knowing ascended being
Mystics have a number as well
Faith, intuition, and prophetic visions
Most schools of Hinduism
Verify knowledge by
Perception, inference, comparison, and testi-
mony
So we see that Science is only
One school out of many
In the panorama of philosophy
Even if I would be convinced
If provided the evidence
In the Scientific form
It would not be possible
For me to accept evolution
Except by blind faith
Because it requires a Ph.D.

In Science to have the background
To make an informed position
Otherwise it is just oversimplified
And I have seen this done
In philosophy and religion
So I would only trust my own
Research into the theory of evolution

Circular Argument

Most people believe anything
Someone with a Scientific education says
How do they prove things?
By facts, of course
How have they proven
That facts are truth?
Because that is Scientific
Facts determine details about
Specific events and measurements
But how does one prove Love?
How does one disprove it?
Many people believe if there
Are no facts for proving something
Than it must not be true
But facts are less important
Than things determined by faith
Things determined by experience
Things determined by reflection
Things determined by immersion
In a particular field of work
Things determined by scripture
Things determined by miraculous
Answers to prayer
If there is nothing to prove
That facts are true
Other than a circular argument
Then why do we base our society
On this shaky ground
And why do we force
This viewpoint on young children?
Our world is getting worse and worse

The more we use facts
To determine policy and direction
Shouldn't we base our ideas
By what works and what doesn't
In the real world
With cold, hard truth
Not by just flimsy facts
After all, it's not like it's hard
To present lies as facts

Only One Answer

There are few things in life
That only have one answer
This is one of the things
People like so much about Science
But this a false premise
As Science is only one way
Of discovery
And is only applicable
To one way of thinking
Coming from the culture of
One part of the world
Having multiple answers
Is the great thing about art,
Philosophy, and religion
The humanities are the only
Fields that treat other cultures
With dignity and respect
They are the only ones
That explain what being
Sentient is like
They answer the most
Important questions
Better because they can
Have multiple answers
Most things in life are paradoxes
Which aren't very compatible
With Science and math
How can you reduce
Most fundamental problems

Down to one solution?
How can you explain
Feelings in numbers and attributes?
How do you express mystery
With a system that is designed
To explain everything?
Ever wonder why economists
Can't predict the future
With mathematical models
Or why it is so hard to
Communicate with psychologists?
Ever wonder why scientists
Are surprised when they
Discover animals are sentient
Or can have mental disorders?
We have an ancient heritage
Of wisdom and understanding
That is aware of things
Science can only dream of
To rely on a system that
Ignores questions of the spirit
Or things that cannot be tested
Under controlled conditions
To guide society into a better world
Shows that our world no longer
Values the truth and is only looking
For easy solutions and doesn't care
About how bad the consequences are

5.2.2 White Curriculum

White Current Events

Our country is so obsessed
With the barely 200 years
Of current events that
From what is often called
American History
The big focus is on whites
Both women and men
And there is a tiny bit

About slavery and civil rights
As if these are the only things
Relevant to people of color
The back is especially padded
How virtuose were the white settlers
Escaping religious persecution
You mean the same ones
Who massacred the indigenous population
Because they thought they were
Gods people and it was His divine plan?
Maybe they should send those
People to the moon without life support
We were told how bad it was that
They had to pay taxes
So they decided to revolt
Today we would call them anarchists
We talk about how awful slavery was
And it sure was - too bad there
Weren't any photographs in our text books
But Irish immigrants were treated
Just as bad in the North
We talk about the Civil War
As if it was about slavery
But Lincoln didn't talk about that
Until half way during the war
What he did was start the war
By reinforcing Fort Sumter
Because he didn't believe
People had the right to choose
Which nation they wanted
To be part of
He wanted to destroy the South
If I was fighting,
I would fight the first half for the South
For state's rights and the second half
For the North, to end slavery
The main focus being on the first half of
American current events
Is clearly a matter of we only care
About rich white men

White Pagan Role Models

Europe and America are still
Falling over themselves about
How wonderful the
Greeks and Romans were
In fact, most Christian theology
Is based more on Greek Paganism
Than on the Bible
The Church respected Rome so much
That they made their capital there
They made their cathedrals like
Roman palaces in design
They made their songs patterned
After Roman songs
They used the language of the Romans
And they helped preserve the pagan
Philosophies and literatures
We don't need more ideas
On how to destroy other nations
Have more sex and violence in our
Entertainment and popular culture
We don't need our children
Memorizing the names of pagan gods
And the deeds of the evil spirits
We would never even think of
Letting the Bible into our classrooms
Because that would cause
A conflict between Church and State
Even though it affected
English literature more than Greek writings
But it is ok to promote the religions
Of pagans because we basically
Hate God and Christians
Because we want to live lives
Of hedonism and have no limits placed
On how much deviant sex and violence
We can dream up

White Stories

Instead of picking from the hundreds
Of texts of classical literature from
Any of the major civilizations of the world
Mostly not white
And in easy to read modern translations
Out of the at least thousands of years
Of recorded history
We confine ourselves to 200 years
Of rich white male writers
We are a nation of immigrants
Except for the Native Americans
But the only culture we think worth
Preserving is 19th century America
From the point of view of
Rich white men
We are making a value judgement
That we don't value non-white cultures
We say we care so much about
Multiculturalism but when it actually
Comes to the work part, we all bail out
And really, you can't say
Hemingway is a better writer than Chuang Tzu
Or that Emerson knew more about Hinduism
Than the writer of the Ramayana
Don't teachers get bored by narrowing
Themselves to such absurd and ridiculous
Conditions on what they teach?
Don't they enjoy learning?
They are after all in the profession of education
Which they supposedly got trained in
And chose instead of careers in higher paying
fields
Because they actually care
I guess not
Maybe it was just for the summers off

5.2.3 Cultural Patterns

Technology of False Gods

There seems to be an endless
Fascination with the monuments
Of the ancient world
Especially how people could
Construct on such a large scale
Without the technology
We have today
We are learning that the
History of technology
Is not linear and progressive
What is interesting is the
Cultural similarities of
All the different ancient cultures
Most of them worshipped
A snake god and were experts in
Mathematics and astronomy
From Stonehenge to Angkor Wat
From the Easter Islands
To the Valley of the Kings
From Machu Picchu
To the Seven Wonders
It seems we value the same things
As these pagan cultures do
We are slaves to technology and violence
And we would do anything
To preserve this way of life
We really are a pagan culture
Here in America

Enlightened Literature

It would be better for us
To be fascinated with literature
From the major cultural centers
Of the Asian continent
Instead of digging up
Places the ancient cultures
Worshipped false gods in

And slaughtered in their names
We seem to think ancient
Greece was civilized
But no culture can compare
To the humanity of China
Their entire system of government
Was based on a subsistence economy
They didn't try to make
The rest of the world into subjects
Like the Europeans did
Leaders were encouraged
To study ethics, poetry, and history
People were promoted
Based on their character
And their education
Rather than by force or fraud
China's weakness is that it
Wasn't violent enough
To stand against the Europeans
What if that were the worst thing
They could say about America?
What a wonderful culture

Art Museum

I approach the museum
From the front
Walking across sidewalks
In an open grassy area
Flanked on 2 sides by
Old brick buildings
With moss planted on the walls
The carvings on the front
Are ornate and abstract
The building is well kept up
I walk up several cement stairs
And I go into the lobby
There is a series of stairs
Behind swinging glass doors
I pay and get my badge
I assume this is some way

Of tracking me by radio waves
I go up the marble staircase
Most the exhibits are on the second floor
In the front, there are exhibitions
Where the museum rents art
And has to return it after a few months
Then you pass by
Their collection are in back
An icons of Russia collection
Of original gold painted illustrations
Of various saints and the Trinity
In the foyay there are small items
From India and Southeast Asia
There is a fairly big Siva stone carving
As well as smaller carvings in stone
Of various gods
There is always a large Chinese
Throne room, jade pagoda,
And imperial clothing and artifacts
On the left side are the Japanese rooms
There is a suit of Samurai armor
And traditional Japanese swords
In the far room
In the nearer room, there are
Small paintings or woodblock carvings
The Korean section is on the right
It has giant watercolors of landscapes
And there are several calligraphy exhibits
They also have a painting of a
Traditional design of a tiger
Downstairs they have a store
Where sometimes you can find prints or books
Of exhibits and a fancy French cafe

5.3 Good Memories

5.3.1 Nostalgia

American Literature

American Literature has little depth

To it compared to Asian Literature
But I have good memories
Of when used to study it
Maybe it was because it was just
That I enjoyed writing or it was
Just preferable to math class
I remember mostly how I felt
It opened up ideas that were new to me
And new ways of looking at the world
It was something I felt very safe with
I guess I felt like Hemingway's
Short story - A Clean, Well Lighted Place
The naturalism writings were new to me
And I enjoyed their cynicism
I remember reading Ken Follet
And James Clavell about other countries
They are obviously overly simplistic
But at the time were exciting
I always enjoy just learning new things
And books even if I don't like
Their subjects
I was also very good at writing
I won a national peace essay contest
For the State of Oregon

Running

I didn't like running at first
But as I got more endurance
I began to enjoy it
It is true that it is difficult
And often painful
But it makes you feel
Like nothing else
You often feel like you
Are out of your body
And that your legs are moving
By their own will
Running really takes commitment
To really get better
And to stay in shape

It is best to run every day
Even on the weekends
When you first start running
You get slower and slower
For about 3 weeks
Then, starting from there
You start to get better
The key to training to run fast
Over a long distance
Is to train over short distances
Repeatedly after short breaks
But keep increasing the length
Of the distances and shortening
The amount of rest time

5.3.2 The Here and Now

That Feeling

It is a certain feeling of jubilation
It exists in memories and dreams
It is how I felt in high school
I cannot locate the source
Was it the anticipation of the holidays?
Was it the cold silence and darkness
Of a winter night?
Was it the freezing rain of winter?
Was it the smell that accompanies the rain?
Was it a memory of a park the church met at
And played frisbee golf?
Was it the memory of the pain in my side
And the cramped up leg muscles
I felt in Cross Country and Long Distance Track?
Was it the memory of waking up
When it was still dark out
For Speech tournaments?
Was it the colleges I toured?
Was it the feeling I get when we go to
Downtown Portland?
Was it the joy I felt using Mac OS 7.5
And using Photoshop for the first time?

Was it the exhilaration I felt
When graduating from high school?
Was it the feeling when I ran
In Basic Training?
Or our long march home
From Field Training Exercises?
Or when I shipped off to duty station?
Or when I woke up in Hawaii
And we went to the beach
On a warm sunny day in February?
Or when I went to a new church?
Maybe it is a feeling of great accomplishment
Or satisfaction with where I am now
Or an excitement about the future
I have felt this way in and off
For half a year
The trouble is that I do not know
What to do with it

Colors

I paint with the colors
That live in my mind
I paint with the hot pink
Of a picturesque sunset
I don't stop to see
Often enough
I paint with shades of green
Of avocados in burritos
And kiwi shakes
When I have enough money
I paint with the bright yellow
Of the penetrating heat
Of the summer sun
That keeps my inside
In the air conditioning
I paint with the deep brown
Of a intimate local cafe
I frequent when I am
Out too early for lunch
I paint with the bright blue

Of the brilliant summer skies
I paint with the orange red
Of numerous pizzas ordered
When I don't have the energy
To walk to the store
I paint with the dark blue
Of the pen I mark the date on
My backup CD-ROMs

Plush Ideas

I don't know how it happens
But my stuffed cows
Talk to me continually
They are as close to me
As a regular person's
Child or pet animal
I hear them with
Separate and distinct voices
They keep me company
Even when I leave them
They enjoy watching me work
On the computer
Watching TV with me
And listening to me read
They really like animated cartoons
I don't take them with me
Except to my parents' house
In order to keep them
From getting lost or dirty
My big fear is that they
Will get taken by some kid
Or left outside to grow mold
They get new outfits and DVDs
For their birthdays and Christmas
They started out with shirts
Then they got onesies for preemies
And then khaki pants and shirts
Then they got job uniforms
Now they have artist clothes
They got a bale of hay this year

They want to learn to read
But I am not sure they
Will still be interested
Several years from now
They seem to like most
Small children, so they like
To watch programs small children like
They say they like them
Because they learn from them
I think stuffed toys
Have many attributes of non-dualism
They also have more Fruits of the Spirit
Than even regular pets do
They are great examples of patience
And they would make great monks
They say God gives them magic
Which they store for emergencies
This is how they move
My cows are born again Christians
But they are very well behaved
The lead cow runs the herd
Like a constitutional monarchy
He collects taxes on magic
For when someone needs more
They like it when I give them
Money to hold for a while
I am afraid if they wander off
They will ask for grass and
Someone might give them drugs
I tell them to be very careful of fire
Because I could back up files easy
But not their plush souls

5.4 Education History

5.4.1 Boredom in School

I really believe that my formal
Education was so useless
That I had to unlearn everything

I was taught in school

Elementary School

I remember living as if in a dream
All throughout elementary school
The teacher would keep on repeating
What is a verb? What is a noun?
We would cover every possible factor
Of the American Revolution and
Of the American Civil War
Over and over again
Our text books were so dry
They literally put me to sleep
I talked constantly in class
As I was so bored
They put my name with a
Check mark by it in permanent ink
I stayed after school for detention
Almost every day
The only thing I remember being enjoyable
Was reading for book reports
And doing art projects
For some reason I began learning
Viola in the orchestra class
But we never got to play anything
That sounded like anything on the radio
Most of the pieces were all numbered names
I hardly ever practiced and I was terrible at it
On my tests I placed at 12th grade comprehension
But only 3rd grade reading level
I was too bored taking tests
So I didn't get into advanced classes
Until later on

Middle School

In middle school the other kids
Picked on me so much
That I dreaded going to school

Especially on the buses
They wouldn't let me
Sit down on the buses
And kicked and hit me
On the buses
And in shop class
We spent the first several months
Learning safety procedures
Before we could touch any of the tools
In our shop class
One kid put the welding flux
Chemical cleaner in his eyes
Deliberately to prove he was tough
I remember one kid putting my
Math book in another desk
So I had to buy a new one
And I found out about it months later
I also had these very large warts
That we had burned with acid
Which would burn for 8 hours
And we had to use finger nail polish
Remover to neutralize it
I then had my warts freeze burned
Which was excruciatingly painful
As they were on the end of my fingers
And under the nails
I finally had them cut out
As much as putting Novocain in the
End of your nails hurts, it was much
Better than the freezing
I also dreaded wrestling as I had to do it
When my warts were being removed
The other person would touch my hand
And I would give up just so
The pain would stop
As they were very sensitive as they healed

High School

High school was much better
I enjoyed my literature class the most

What kept me going was
All the activities I was involved in
If I hadn't been in so many clubs
I would have dropped out long before graduation
I was involved in 12 different activities
My Junior year
I enjoyed most of all Model United Nations
Where each school represented a different nation
I was the President my senior year
And also ran a committee
I enjoyed going on Speech tournaments
Because we got to go see most of the colleges
Around Portland, the nearest big city
I didn't practice much and lost every time
I enjoyed the Future Business Leaders of America
Because we got to stay at the Hilton
I wanted to do acting, but I didn't get selected
For the part I auditioned for, so I thought
That I wasn't good enough although later
I was told I was very good
I also enjoyed Cross Country
As we were able to go to the coast
Or other places in the area on invitational meets
We got to eat out there too
I also enjoyed cheerleading which
Was a total surprise to me when I made it
As I could not remember dance moves or cheers
And I still don't know what first in ten means
I was asked to do it the next year too
I got people more excited about the games
But I needed to focus on getting in shape
For the military my senior year
I also designed the military section of my
High school's orientation CD-ROM
With Sony Disc Manufacturing
I also got some invitations to some cool colleges
One was Bennington which I think
Was one of those colleges that you can

Make up your own degree
And another one in Pennsylvania which was
A private Christian college but much cheaper

5.4.2 Safe and Sound

The Recruiter

I took a long time deciding
Whether or not to join the military
One of my interests in it
Was that I could do something
Interesting just out of high school
And go to a much better college
And not be in debt from student loans
I was also stressed out with all the reading
We did my senior year and I was looking
Forward to have some time away
From a rigorous academic program
I chose to go enlisted because I wanted
To get my military service out of the way
Before I went to college
Because even then I didn't
Think it would be very enjoyable
I found out later that there is little
A person can do to prepare for Basic Training
Except getting into good over all physical shape
I had run most years of high school in
Cross Country and Long Distance Track
And my senior year I worked out all summer
And took an intensive conditioning course
The last half of my senior year
I signed up a whole year in advance
So I got an interesting job in the Army
Working with computers
I remember asking my recruiter directly
About the NBC training
And whether or not our enemies would be
Using chemical weapons in combat
He directly denied it
I wasn't afraid of being killed

But I didn't want to be burned alive
The brochures painted one side of
Someone's imagination of military life
But being in the Army is very different
The only thing I had really known
That was correct was that it didn't
Require much brain power even for
The most advanced engineering job

Basic Training

The first thing that shocked me
Was how much easier the physical training
And how more friendly my fellow soldiers were
Than I had expected
The downside was that I didn't
Rise to the occasion as much as I had hoped
The first 2 weeks of Basic Training
You get yelled at a lot from the Drill Sergeants
And you learn to march
As well as watch films on all sorts of things
Like the military judicial system (UCMJ)
And a scare film about STDs
You also get issued gear during this period
It is really easy to get out then
But there is nothing very stressful yet
Next you learn the Manual of Arms
How to move the rifle in ceremony and safely
I had to drop and do push-ups
Each time any procedure was explained
As I seemed to keep on getting it wrong
Then we had a confidence building course
That we had to repel and climb through
Various towers somewhat like an obstacle course
Then they do pictures and no one is allowed to
smile
Of course that wasn't hard as we were to go
To the gas chamber in a few days
I was told the gas chamber didn't cause any
pain
And that you only had to

Hold your breath for a few seconds
You go in this small dark room
With your mask on and you feel
Your hands are burning painfully
Then you are told to take off the mask
Not only can you barely breathe
But it feels like your
Lungs and eyes are on fire
We were kept in there for at least 5 minutes
And we were the last platoon in
So we had much more of the CS gas
In the room at the time
As they put another stick in each time
Another platoon went in
This is when I realized the
Risks I was taking by enlisting
After that, we spent 2 weeks
Learning how to shoot the M-16 (BRM)
I thought I would never pass
But the drill sergeant gave me a lane
Where the 300m target jumped up
And down and counted for me
No matter if I hit it or not
We then trained with a live grenade
I freaked out about this
Until I got the live grenade and then
It just felt like throwing a baseball
Except after you throw it you dive
Down in your foxhole and put
Your head between your legs
For training we didn't have a foxhole
But we had a cement wall
We stood behind, we wore a kevlar
Helmet and vest and the sergeant
Jumped on us to make sure we were down
These grenades are safe as long as you aren't
Standing up as they explode at a high angle
Then we went to field training exercises (FTX)
I didn't do very good at digging a foxhole
But my battle buddy slept while I
Watched for the Drill Sergeant

One time, the Drill Sergeant pulled my rifle
Out of my hands, so I had to low crawl
In the dirt, but later I gathered
That she was saving me from the
Other Drill Sergeant who was going to throw
CS gas into my foxhole
I slept with my protective mask on that night
Then we did a big test on everything
We learned for combat survival
I failed the clearing a rifle from a jam test (SPORTS)
And I left the test button connected when
I set off my claymore mine and yelled "clay-
more"
I was supposed to be punished for that
But it didn't happen for some reason
During the last week, the head Drill Sergeant
For the platoon announced in front of everyone
That if I wasn't already promoted as high
As she could promote, then she would have
Chosen my above all the other soldiers
The only thing that happened the same every
day
Was that we woke up once the lights were turned
on
We jumped out of bed and ran into formation
When we finished training under the football
lights
We went to breakfast as it was getting light
And this was in the middle of the summer
On Sundays we got a few hours off to write let-
ters
And we could go to church or we could do chores
We were also allowed a little time to call home

Advanced Training

Going to advanced training was a big relief
(AIT)
I was shocked to see my roommates
Watch TV and play video games
I was also shocked that we had Drill Sergeants

In advanced training as well
And these ones were out of uniform
The first month or two we did details (chores)
We went to school in rotating schedules
We had morning, swing, and graveyard shifts
Every few months, our class rotated
I went to school with all the other services
I developed allergic pink eye (Conjunctivitis)
Which I continued to have for 3 more years
I think I was more stressed out by
Having to identify who are the officers
And who are the NCOs and their ranks
Than I was afraid of the real potential
Of being exposed to chemical weapons
We had much better food as we were on
A Navy base and after the Air Force abandoned
Their "dormitories", we inherited them
They were like the Hilton to us
But they were not up to Air Force standards
The Marines really hated us
As they trained on an Army base before
And they didn't have a good experience
We gradually got more and more privileges
After every few months
We were eventually allowed to leave the base
When I shipped off, everyone was being sent to
Hawaii
People graduating a month or 2 before me
Were sent to Bosnia and Korea

Permanent Duty Station

I graduated on Valentine's Day
And arrived at the air port
In the middle of the night
I took a taxi as the Drill Sergeant told me
On arriving to the base
I did not know where to go
Ironically, I was dropped off in exactly the right
spot
I had to do details my first few weeks

After doing processing at the base
There was a bus that drove
All around the island (Oahu)
So I could see all the sites on my days off
We worked on a rotating swing and graveyard
So I would always have different days off
I attended different churches on the base
In town nearby, in Honolulu, and across the
island
It was so beautiful even in the winter
After working a few months, I got mononucleo-
sis
I also got staff eye infections
One day, half delirious
I went to the commanding officer
And asked to get out of the military
I didn't even care if it was honorable or not
I was referred to the counseling center
They determined that I had a personality disorder
I never even saw anyone other than NCOs
A psychiatrist (a Major) signed off on it at the
end
Later I found I had Schizophrenia, but that
The military wanted to save money,
So they didn't diagnose me properly
Before I left, I ran a half marathon through
Kole Kole Pass to a Naval Seal base
I also took some tests that got me credit
For a year of college
And a few months before took some classes
Which in combination, gave me
An entire year as transferable credit later on
So I never was a college freshman
I also had seen most the major tourist sites
Before I left the military
I got out in 5 weeks after talking to the CO
And I got an honorable discharge
This never happens that fast
Even with a dishonorable discharge
God was sure looking out for me

5.4.3 College and Mental Illness

Community College

I tested out of my first year in college
While still in the military
So I started out at Community College
In town as a sophomore
I had even got money from the Army
For college but the biggest financial aid
Came from not counting my parents income
Against me so I could get grants
Grants don't have to be paid back
I had to live at home because I only
Had enough money for school
I started out with a Business Major
I took Calculus and Economics
I had a lot of trouble with Accounting
I took it 5 times before I passed it
I learned about Postmodernism
In my required English class
I hated Business but I was trying
To be practical about my major
I wasn't able to study much
Because I was in so much pain
From the allergic pink eye

University

The next year I attended the
University in town as a Junior
I continued studying business
I took a Chinese Literature class
As my business breadth requirement
And I enjoyed it immensely
This was my first introduction
To Eastern Philosophy
I also started several other classes
But had to drop out
As I was still in so much pain
From my allergic pink eye
This was about the time

When I started my website
I had to move out that Spring
And lived in a fixed up garage
For a few months
And this was when I first
Installed Linux
After reading about it for 6 months
My motivation was to try to
Fix Microsoft Office so it would
Crash less and all programming roads
Seemed to lead to Linux
I had to attend summer school
As I didn't complete enough courses
I took an Existentialism and an Ecofeminism
Course that summer
As that was all that was left
This was my first introduction to
Existentialism
The end of that summer I worked
At a phone survey company
Previously I had tried selling
Long distance phone service
And doing canvassing for
Our local Public Interest Research Group
I changed my major to Journalism
I took a grammar course
And a graphic design for journalists course
As well as a class in mass media
And a philosophy course about Beauvoir
Someone told me she was the lover
Of Foucault which is not true

My Breakdown

At the end of the winter semester
I had an emotional breakdown
I thought I was dealing
With spiritual warfare
I tore up my copy of the Second Sex
And I burned a bunch of my books
I thought I was a prophet

And ended up in the local
Private hospital's mental ward
I tried to take courses that Spring
After I was released for several months
In programming and social science
But that didn't work out
I started reading philosophy again
Starting with Existentialism
And Zen Buddhism
Along the way
I spent about a year in a group home
With 8 other mentally ill men
I spent a couple years in a retirement home
And had in home care a number of years
I now am completely independent

5.5 Human Nature

I went by the field of the slothful, and by
the vineyard of the man void of understand-
ing; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns,
and nettles had covered the face thereof, and
the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then
I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it,
and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a
little slumber, a little folding of the hands to
sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that
travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

1

And I gave my heart to seek and search out
by wisdom concerning all things that are done
under heaven: this sore travail hath God given
to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. I
have seen all the works that are done under
the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation
of spirit. That which is crooked cannot be made
straight: and that which is wanting cannot be

¹Proverbs 24:30-34

numbered. I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

2

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth? I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God. I know that, whatsoever God

²Ecclesiastes 1:13-18

doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past. And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there. I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work. I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts. For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth? Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

3

So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter. Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive. Yea, better is he than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the

³Ecclesiastes 3

evil work that is done under the sun. Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit. The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh. Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit. Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun. There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail. Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken. Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished. For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also he that is born in his kingdom becometh poor. I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead. There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

4

Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth,

⁴Ecclesiastes 4

and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words. When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God. If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they. Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field. He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes? The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep. There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt. But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand. As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand. And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what

profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind? All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness. Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion. Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God. For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart

5

There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men: A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease. If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial; I say, that an untimely birth is better than he. For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness. Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known any thing: this hath more rest than the other. Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place? All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled. For what hath the wise more than the fool? what hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living? Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of

⁵Ecclesiastes 5

the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit. That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he. Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better? For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?

6

A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools. For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity. Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart. Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools. Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this. Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun. For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have

⁶Ecclesiastes 6

it. Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked? In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him. All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that longeth his life in his wickedness. Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself? Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time? It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all. Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city. For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee: For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others. All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me. That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out? I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness: And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her. Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account: Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found. Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made

man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

7

Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed. I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God. Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him. Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him. For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be? There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it. All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt. And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity. Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked,

⁷Ecclesiastes 7

neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God. There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity. Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun. When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:) Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.

8

For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them. All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath. This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that

⁸Ecclesiastes 8

they go to the dead. For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun. Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works. Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment. Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest. I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them. This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me: There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it: Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man. Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised,

and his words are not heard. The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools. Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

9

Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour. A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left. Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool. If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences. There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler: Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place. I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth. He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him. Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby. If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct. Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better. The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself. The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness. A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him? The labour of the foolish weareth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city. Woe

⁹Ecclesiastes 9

to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning! Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness! By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through. A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things. Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

10

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth. If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be. He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good. Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun: But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity. Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in

¹⁰Ecclesiastes 10

the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.

11

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low; Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity. And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that

¹¹Ecclesiastes 11

which was written was upright, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

12

5.6 Children's Instruction

5.6.1 Deuteronomy

Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord

¹²Ecclesiastes 12

said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.

13

Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells

¹³Deuteronomy 4:5-10

digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the Lord thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the Lord thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

14

Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it; And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the Lord swore unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey. For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs: But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year. And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou

¹⁴Deuteronomy 6:1-15

mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the Lord's wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the Lord giveth you. Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth. For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him; Then will the Lord drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves. Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be. There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the Lord your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you. Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command

you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known. And it shall come to pass, when the Lord thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal. Are they not on the other side Jordan, by the way where the sun goeth down, in the land of the Canaanites, which dwell in the champaign over against Gilgal, beside the plains of Moreh? For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein. And ye shall observe to do all the statutes and judgments which I set before you this day.

15

And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed. And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and unto all the elders of Israel. And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles, When all Israel is come to appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Gather the peo-

¹⁵Deuteronomy 11:8-32

ple together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

16

5.6.2 Others

And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that ye may know how that I am the Lord.

17

And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the Lord did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the Lord's law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the Lord brought thee out of Egypt. Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.

18

I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I

¹⁶Deuteronomy 31:7-13

¹⁷Exodus 10:2

¹⁸Exodus 13:8-10

sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Come, ye children, hear-ken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

19

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes,

¹⁹Psalm 34

and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men. The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough. The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it. There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid. Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness. For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear: For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat; For an odious woman when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress. There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer; The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks; The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands; The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces. There be three things which go well, yea, four are comely in going: A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any; A greyhound; an he goat also; and a king, against whom there is no rising up. If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up

thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth. Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

20

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

21

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

²⁰Proverbs 30:11-33

²¹Ephesians 6:1-9

